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Democracy in Africa?

Born of crisis, democratic reform movements are sweeping the continent. Will they provide the conditions for needed economic and social changes?

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UNDP's controversial measures for human development

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By C. Stephen Baldwin

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development forum

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As I See It



Air "dumps" of relief supplies added frenzy to the chaos in Bangladesh.

The lost lessons of Bangladesh

By C. Stephen Baldwin

I was appalled to learn, first from fragmentary newspaper accounts, then from television footage showing food being dumped from helicopters to surging crowds of desperate people below, that the recent relief efforts in Bangladesh and northern Iraq/southern Turkey have benefitted so little from basic life-saving lessons learned over the years.

Both efforts highlighted major oversights by local and international authorities, including failure to anticipate the disasters at all; totally inadequate preparation of materials and generalizable procedures for relief; and inability to capitalize on the human

qualities and local expertise available at disaster sites, in order to maximize effectiveness of relief operations.

The initial failures in these operations cost thousands of lives—unnecessarily. This was all the more vivid to me because I was personally involved in the terrible cyclone/tidal bore in October 1970 in Bangladesh that left as many as 500,000 people dead. The lessons learned then should not have to be relearned with each emergency.

In 1970, we only had one day's warning before rains, 20-foot waves and winds shrieking like banshee

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Human Development

This issue

Recent volcanic eruptions in the Philippines and wild floods in Chile serve to punctuate C. Stephen Baldwin's dramatic appeal for disaster preparedness based on his experience in Bangladesh. As the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990-1999 gets underway, he reminds us "how painfully, insignificantly little" mankind has learned about dealing effectively with disasters.

UNDP's *Human Development Report 1991* has caused a sensation with its human freedom index, but this is only one element in a series of controversial measures it is recommending to promote human development.

In a feature marking World Population Day (11 July), Ajoa Yeboah-Afari tells the story of one man's initiation into the responsibilities of family planning.

The *State of the World Economic Survey 1991* just released by the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs predicts zero growth globally this year. This and other global trends are reviewed on page 9.

Voices for Development features an exchange of views between United Nations University (UNU) rector Heitor Gurgulino de Souza and University of Tokyo professor Takashi Inoguchi in the debate on the central role of multilateralism in the emerging new world order.

A fascinating statistical portrait of women around the world can be found in the *World's Women 1970-1990*. The new United Nations report is a valuable new source of statistics and analysis regarding the status of women on a global scale, page 17.

UNDP focuses development priorities on people

S spurred by the slowdown in economic and social development in many countries, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has proposed an unprecedented set of policy recommendations that places new emphasis on the human component in development. The proposals, which set new priorities and new ways to measure and promote development, have stirred controversy, particularly among developing country governments.

UNDP's *Human Development Report 1991*, published by Oxford University Press for UNDP, challenges the widely held opinions that developing countries are currently too poor to finance their human development needs because of the drain of military

spending, debt, corruption and weak economies. "The lack of political commitment, not of financial resources, is often the real cause of human neglect," says the report.

"There are far too many examples of wasted resources and wasted opportunities," writes William H. Draper III, the administrator of UNDP. Despite tight aid budgets and strained national budgets, he argues, "most budgets can accommodate additional expenditure for human development if priorities are recast."

The report identifies several areas for changing priorities in the national budgets of developing countries and foreign aid allocations of donors. As much as \$50 billion a year could be released in the

developing countries from low priority expenditures towards higher priority human concerns.

It points out that many developing countries spend more than 25 per cent of their GNP through their government budgets, but their expenditure on human priority goals—basic education, primary health care, rural water supply, family planning, food subsidies, social security—is generally less than one-tenth of their total public spending.

The report is equally critical of existing priorities in aid allocations. "If only one-third of today's aid were committed to human priority areas, the aid allocation to

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Population

Real men use contraceptives

By Ajoa Yeboah-Afari

When Francis Kofi Amoah and his bride decided to wait a year or two before starting a family, his friends laughed at him. But he stood firm. For behind the decision were two personal experiences: that of growing up as one of nine children, and that of fathering an unplanned baby.

Kofi, at 29, remembers the struggle his father and mother had to provide for them. "Having put the older children through school, my parents found it increasingly difficult to care for the rest. We older children had to look after the younger ones as soon as we were out of school."

His second experience came when he was a polytechnic student and made his girlfriend pregnant. The woman was also at college and the pregnancy forced her to

Kofi still has a bad conscience about the fact that he was the cause of his girlfriend's inability to complete her schooling. And more especially, he regrets his

Kofi was brought up to believe that a man 'proved his manliness by the number of children he could father'.

drop out of her studies. After the birth of their daughter, Kofi's girlfriend was unable to go back to school and this led to their break-up. He married another woman three years ago.

stubbornness about family planning. "She used to talk to me about the need for contraception, but I refused to listen to her. We used no contraceptives at all. It was only

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Helping the Kurds get home



Displaced Kurdish people on a road near Sulaymaniyah, Iraq.

Dear Editor,

The displacement of tens of thousands of Kurds raises the spectre of yet another group like the Palestinians trapped forever in refugee camps.

I think the experience of the 8,000 Salvadoran refugees in Honduras who actively prepared their repatriation described in "Refugees take on their own repatriation" by John L. Hammond (*DF*, March-April 1991) should be considered in the search for solutions.

With United Nations help, these Central American refugees became literate, acquired industrial skills and organized themselves into a self-sufficient, viable democratic community. Equipped with these tools, they were able to retrace their steps back to their homeland.

In order for the Kurds to resettle in Iraq, we must help them acquire enough economic independence and organization to be able to return home, enough power to command respect and enough maturity to avoid civil war.

What new perspectives for action can be gleaned from the Salvadorans' experience? First, organize schools in the camps as soon as

possible. Next, organize apprenticeships and complementary vocational training, exchanging these services within the camps and with the outside. Also, organize co-ordinating communities which could represent the refugee groups and negotiate some conditions for their repatriation.

These communities will also need to know how to defend their human rights and learn the techniques of non-violence so they can be respected without inciting disastrous conflict. They could learn techniques such as rapid information gathering about serious rights violations, and massive non-violent demonstrations which would reduce the number of victims that would result from an armed conflict.

The United Nations should be able to negotiate repatriation conditions with controlled amnesty, without appearing to meddle in internal affairs. Using proven non-violent techniques in case of reprisals would facilitate these efforts.

Jean Lecerf,
co-founder of the Association of Journalists
for Development Information, 14 rue de
Sèvres 92100 Boulogne, France.

Imposing peace

Dear Editor,

Your coverage of the tragic aftermath of the Gulf war ("Picking up the pieces" by Jim Wurst, and Brian Urquhart's essay "Stronger United Nations only guarantee for security", *DF*, May-June) makes the need for the United Nations to assume greater responsibilities and promote the formation of a world government all the more clear. The United Nations can take two important steps toward this goal.

First, it would have to strengthen the existing Geneva Commission for Disarmament and turn it into a real commission for peace with clearly defined functions.

Among other things, the Commission would work to induce the weaker and indebted countries to give up their armies and armaments and to place themselves under the protection of the United Nations, which in turn would guarantee their independence.

Second, the United Nations

should lay the foundations for the constitution of a World Government which, among other tasks, would have the authority of making rapid interventions in case of any serious infringement, thus guaranteeing peace for all peoples.

We are perfectly aware that the expanded powers with which we would like to entrust the United Nations and its Security Council are huge and outside of their original functions. Nevertheless, if different prospects are to be created for mankind, we are also aware that it is necessary for the United Nations to have a much more far-reaching and vital policy effectively aiming at imposing peace now and in the future.

Considering how serious the present world situation is, please allow us to remind you of the need to open a debate inside the United Nations and their agencies to emphasize the above issues.

Giovanni Brambilla,
director, Nuovi Orientamenti per una
nuova etica, Via Eleonora d'arboorea, 38,
00162 Rome, Italy.

Disaster cover story timely

Dear Editor,

The March-April cover story "Coping with disaster" was very timely. Within weeks of reading *DF*, a cyclone ravaged the west coast of the United States, another rendered parts of Bangladesh uninhabitable, and a very powerful earthquake struck Soviet Armenia.

The human tragedy and economic loss caused by numerous disasters is high. Since this decade has been dedicated to the reduction of natural disasters and as World Health Day focused on disaster-preparedness, I think it is a very good time for us to be actively involved in educating and informing ourselves to be prepared if disaster—man-made or natural—strikes.

The "new improved" format of *DF* is a welcome innovation but more health reports will be appreciated because without health, all other aspects of life are nothing.

Eseme Ibanga,
Lagos University Teaching Hospital,
Modular Dept., Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria.

Protecting national culture

Dear Editor,

As someone who has been active in international development for over 20 years and has come to recognize the key link between development and culture, I was inspired by the article "Movie import quotas provoke protests", (*Development Forum*, May-June 1991).

I think the Indonesian government should be congratulated for resisting attempts by the Hollywood film industry to export more United States-made movies and to advertise them on local television.



Refusing to allow Indonesian culture to be eroded by Hollywood "soap" has nothing to do with "unfair trade practices" and everything to do with sovereignty and protecting culture.

Already too many nations have bowed to the imports of mass-produced American television programmes which project values they can well do without. The arrogance of United States movie producers will not, however, permit them to take "no" for an answer. They will continue to put pressure on Indonesia to give in, just like the American cigarette manufacturers did in Thailand, Korea and Taiwan, using GATT and other methods.

I do hope Indonesia's "no" remains firm. It is up to each nation to decide its imports of goods, as well as of "culture".

Annelies Allain,
IBFAN co-ordinator, Seahome 524-E, 11200
Tanjung Bungah, Penang, Malaysia.

Handicap exchange

Dear Editor,

We are an international school for the physically disadvantaged, run by a voluntary non-profit fund, in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, South India. Dindigul is known for its achievements in education, medical relief, water supply, drainage and public sanitation. But much is yet to be developed for the welfare of the physically handicapped.

Being regular readers of *Development Forum*, we hope to be able to establish contacts with other readers and organizations interested in field work for the handicapped at both the international and the grass-roots levels. Some may wish to exchange ideas and information on the promotion of the welfare of the disabled.

It is also hoped that the *Forum* will devote more space to articles highlighting the efforts of various agencies and organizations dedicated to the well-being of the handicapped.

We look forward to hearing from those willing to share information and experience.

P.M. Kanakasabapathi,
chairman, International Orthopaedic
School, 81 Solai Hall Road, Dindigul 624001,
Tamil Nadu, India.

Far-reaching impact

Dear Editor,

Some comments you might find gratifying. At a recent conference on educational reform I attended in France, one participant—an eminent psychologist—cited *Development Forum* as the source for an article on global education that had deeply impressed her. You should be reminded that your impact is far-reaching and long-lasting.

I can also tell you that in my home town of Sarreguemines in Lorraine, France, the publisher of my French books told me that *Development Forum* is his only source of information about the United Nations and that he loves the newspaper.

I checked with our library at the University for Peace if it received *Development Forum* regularly. It is, alas, not the case. It was sent in the past to a person who has left the University. Could you make sure that we receive the newspaper regularly in the existing languages? I am glad, incidentally, that you have opened your columns more to outside writers.

Robert Muller,
chancellor, University for Peace, P.O. Box
199-1250, Escazu, Costa Rica, C.A.

Invaluable Information

Dear Editor,

I am a high school teacher in Ethiopia and I have been reading *Development Forum* for several years. It has always been a source of invaluable information for me regarding social and economic developments in countries around the world.

In fact, your newspaper is the only device I have to keep myself informed about the world around me. I listen to different radio broadcasts and I get a few magazines that are published abroad. But of all these, I have found *Development Forum* the best for it gives detailed information.

Girma Gezaheon,
P.O. Box 125, Mettu, Ethiopia

New levels of multilateralism

By Heitor Gurgulino de Souza

With the end of the Cold War we are faced with the challenge of creating a new world order characterized by an increased multipolarity in every sphere of human activity.



It appears that the guiding principle of multilateralism, defined as an institutionalized process of negotiation for problem solving and conflict resolution involving multiple parties, is in great demand once again.

So far, the quest for multilateralism and collective action at a global level is best reflected in the work of the United Nations system. In recent decades we have witnessed the enhanced economic and political interdependence among nations as well as the closer interlinkages in such areas as security, population, development and environment—all areas in which the United Nations has taken a leading role.

Until now, however, this interdependence has not bridged the gap between the rich and the poor, either between or within countries. Many countries remain seriously plagued by economic difficulties and internal political conflicts. The newly emerging global system inherits these old problems and will have to confront new, complex issues and uncertainties as well.

If the new world order is to be viable, it will need to be multifaceted in nature. In political terms, multilateralism has referred to relations among sovereign states through diplomatic channels or interstate organizations.

In economic terms, the post-Second World War Bretton Woods system developed a concept of multilateralism for a system of trade and payments in which barriers are reduced to a minimum and made non-discriminatory in practice. In this arena of multilateralism, the economic actors such as corporations and banks are the main entities, although they are regulated by states and international organizations.

During this current period of transition, multilateralism, both in its political and economic applications, will have to be greatly enhanced to significantly alleviate world tensions and ensure a just and stable new world order based on mutual respect and equal rights for all people.

Thus we must go still further. The concept of multilateralism must be boldly expanded to include active participation of non-governmental organizations and even individuals to respond to new challenges and requirements, especially in the fields of human rights, development and environment. Indeed, the Charter of the United Nations was proclaimed by "We the peoples of the United Nations", although it has functioned almost exclusively as an intergovernmental organization to date.

One arena of multilateral co-operation that will provide immediate and far-reaching results for development is that of scientific collaboration. In this case, the players in multilateral scientific co-operation are not the states, but universities, research institutes and individual scholars and scientists.

The recognition of growing inter-

dependence and the worldwide impact of human activities serves as a foundation for the work of the United Nations University. The development of new concepts and approaches related to multilateralism are important facets of the University's programmes.

Indeed, as part of its mandate to review the issues, policies and trends that are of particular importance for multilateral action on peace and governance, economic relations and sustainable development, the University has established programmes to study the multilateral aspects of economic, social, political and cultural implications of scientific and technological advances, as well as problems of the environment, population and health. This work on the approaches and functioning of multilateralism is being designed to support ways of improving mechanisms for constructive dialogue in the international community.

It is worth noting two new University programmes: "Multilateralism and the United Nations" and "Governance and Conflict Resolution". The former focuses on the interaction of the dynamics of the changing global structure

and the processes of international organizations.

One aspect of the programme's research deals with multilateralism as

Voices for development

The concept of multilateralism lies at the heart of the work of the United Nations. Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, rector of the United Nations University, and Takashi Inoguchi, professor of political science at the University of Tokyo, argue that not only should it be the guiding principle of the emerging new world order, but that reduced bilateral capacity makes it indispensable to achieve common global goals.

Bilateralism no longer enough

By Takashi Inoguchi

As Heitor Gurgulino de Souza points out, multilateralism is making a comeback. I would like to argue three compelling reasons why multilateralism must be central to conceiving and conducting schemes of world development in the 1990s: the widened development gap; structural shortages of global capital surplus; and a growing sense of one global community.

Despite all the calls by the United Nations system of organizations and others for reducing the gap between the developing South and the developed North, reality remains that a majority of the developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and to a lesser degree South Asia, have lagged further behind in relative terms to the developed North.

The development gap has expanded still further with the large-scale dismantling of the world's centrally planned economies, not only in Eastern Europe but in many developing countries as well. In effect, a new group of countries is in need of development assistance of all kinds.

These planned economies are now in a state of flux between a tight command economy and a full-fledged market economy and their pitifully small size and weak competitiveness have been laid bare as they await the influx of capital and the infusion of technology and know-how from abroad. These must be the focus for large-scale development efforts at a time when resources are short.

Secondly, the world is now facing a chronic shortage of capital. Until recently, it was hoped that countries with large capital surpluses, especially Japan and Germany, would finance a large portion of the global task of develop-

ment in place of the deficit-ridden United States. A new picture is now emerging wherein the economies of these surplus countries are also becoming more problematic than was previously thought.

Germany has been preoccupied with the integration of the former German Democratic Republic and with the liberalization of former centrally-planned economies to the east. These two tasks have already almost dried up what capital surplus Germany possessed until recently and reduced its ability to respond to demands to supply a large amount of development finance to the developing South.

Japan's situation is no more encouraging than Germany's. Its current account surplus has been registering a steady reduction for the past three years. The outflow of capital for manufacturing abroad has become the norm in Japan. Furthermore, savings rates have been slowly declining as consumerism rises, especially for the younger urban population. To make matters worse, the demographic trend in Japan is that the population above age 65 is becoming a very large group in the total population.

Instead of surplus reduction in order to satisfy the demand from the United States government and other borrowers, surplus maintenance is becoming a major item on the policy agenda of the Japanese government, which has been regularly called upon to finance a wide variety of projects. It is becoming clear that the world needs to create a surplus fund in order to carry out our common agendas, including development, on a global basis.

Third, the sense that the globe is one community of humankind is growing visibly. The progress of technology has made it clear that the globe has to be treated as one, irrespective of borders and parochial beliefs. It becomes increasingly difficult to be aloof from

perceived from the context of different human communities, social forces or cultural traditions. It also examines methodological and normative implications of the various perspectives on multilateralism.

The programme on governance and conflict resolution is designed to examine the underlying conditions for internal conflicts, particularly where these are manifested through violence. It aims to identify early signs of internal conflicts and strengthen policy proposals for conflict resolution.

As the United Nations takes on a greater role in monitoring and resolving conflicts around the world, it will require this kind of information to fulfil its expanded role in peace keeping and crisis prevention.

The successful undertaking of the University's programme requires developing and institutionalizing intellectual and scientific multilateralism. We must rely on an ever-expanding international community of scholars to ensure worldwide scientific exchange and collaboration. A new world order based on collective goals of sustainable development and mutual security can only succeed if it relies on multilateral approaches that take into account our common interests as well as the rights of future generations. ■

Heitor Gurgulino de Souza is rector of the United Nations University.

peoples suffering from hunger, war and oppression when these images are constantly seen on television.

Although much remains to be done to enhance projects to assist those in need, there is a discernible increase in popular interest in and understanding of emergency as well as development projects and in peoples' willingness to contribute to these causes, even among those, like the

The world needs to create a surplus fund to carry out our common agendas on a global basis.

Japanese, who have been only marginally involved in the past. The world needs to build further this global community consciousness so as to activate common action for development.

Multilateralism is a necessary form of organizing collective action for dealing with the common agendas of development when sufficient resources are not forthcoming from a single country or organization. It is not easy to manage multilateralism, particularly in the complex and shifting area of development. Priorities and co-ordination are hard to agree on and, perhaps most difficult, there is always the temptation to maximize self-interest among nations by taking the bilateral route. The dwindling resources of the planet make it more necessary than ever to pool resources for development and decide and act with the spirit of consultation and co-operation for the common cause. ■

Takashi Inoguchi is a professor of political science at the Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo.

Benin

Garbage into gardens

By Ruth Massey

Porto Novo, the capital of Benin, has a population of just 150,000 and a run-down, ramshackle look to it. Its narrow streets are lined with the red earth walls of sixteenth century homes that once belonged to Portuguese merchants who sold slaves and tobacco to the Americas.

These once-grand colonial buildings are crumbling now, vying in decay with the enormous piles of garbage that lie rotting in the streets.

There used to be even more garbage in Porto Novo. It was never collected, and some heaps grew as high as a four-storey house, causing health problems and driving some people out of neighbourhoods where the stench became unbearable.

Then a rural development expert, Veronique Gnanih, suggested that this West African city create a composting centre in order to transform its garbage into fertilizer. This would, she argued, help enrich the poor soil of the Porto Novo region, and create jobs.

Gnanih obtained funding for the project from the Centre Panafricain de Prospective Sociale (CPPS). Her first challenge was to procure a site on which to recycle the rubbish, and CPPS bought seven hectares of land in the village of Tohoue to launch the project on an experimental basis.

The scheme was then joined by Emmaus International, a French NGO, which provided a tractor and two trailers.

"We parked the trailers in two locations—one near the station and the other near the football stadium—and people started dumping their rubbish in them,"



A local "greenbelt" experiment, designed to recycle garbage and improve agriculture, has produced surprising successes in this small West African capital. Above, workers sift rich compost for sale to an expanding network of farmers.

Gnanih says: "Samples sent to a laboratory at Toulouse University revealed that the compost did not contain enough nitrogen to allow adequate fermentation. The laboratory proposed adding water hyacinths to the compost."

As it turned out, water hyacinths with a high nitrogen content were found growing in abundance in a lagoon outside Porto Novo. In fact, they were depriving fish of

mosquitoes that are attracted to the pond.

Tilapia and catfish thrive on the pond's fecal matter acting as purification agents and helping render the tank free of odours.

In addition to producing the compost, for which they are paid the equivalent of about \$3 a week, the youths employed by the scheme have branched out into market gardening. With funds from the United Nations Development Programme's Partners in Development, which supports small, innovative NGO projects, the centre bought seeds and more land.

Malnutrition, illiteracy and poverty are endemic to this region of Benin. Its sandy soil, never rich, has become poorer still due to over-use.

Yet in one year 18-year-old Kodjo Gato, who works at the centre, proved that the soil of Tohoue could produce lots of tasty vegetables. He says: "My father and friends told me it was useless even to try growing anything on this land."

"They couldn't believe their eyes when they saw our spinach. Using five wheelbarrows of compost, we got three crops from a plot of 120 square metres."

The villagers are now paying \$2 for a wheelbarrow of compost to use on their own gardens. Gnanih says: "They were amazed at the amount of corn and manioc they could produce on what they thought was infertile soil."

In addition to spinach, the youths grow cucumbers, green beans, cabbage, peppers and onions.

Because meat is expensive in Tohoue, the project organizers are also cultivating vegetables rich in protein, such as "ablat", a bean that requires very little water to grow.

"We just put in a bit of compost around the foot of the plant and it produces beans all year round," says Gato, who has learned to make seed beds and keep records of plantings, harvests and sales.

Many who buy the produce say it is of higher quality than vegetables found on the local market. It also keeps longer. "We were able to keep cucumbers for one month without refrigeration," says Gato, adding that cucumbers usually start to rot after a week. "Now we are experimenting with cabbage to see if it too will keep longer."

As with other young men selected to work at the centre, Gato says he has learned enough about market gardening to be able to train others.

Veronique Gnanih believes that within a few months the centre will have earned enough from sales of fertilizer and vegetables to buy an additional garbage trailer and to hire more unemployed youths to work as garbage sorters and trainee market gardeners. ■

Ruth Massey is a photojournalist with the United Nations Development Programme.



The programme to recycle the capital's garbage has led directly to an improvement in health conditions and employment in Porto Novo.

Gnanih explained. "It was as if they knew instinctively what the trailers were there for."

Every evening the tractor tows the trailers back to the recycling centre in Tohoue, where 21 once-jobless youths sort out the garbage.

First, they remove plastic, metal, glass and all other substances that do not decompose biologically. They sell the metal to a blacksmith. The glass is crafted into jewellery by local artisans. They keep aside plastic because they still have not found a use for it.

The organic refuse is thrown into pits and covered with palm fronds, which help turn the garbage into compost. Humidity, air flow and heat are checked regularly to ensure that fermentation takes place correctly. After two months the fresh compost is ready for use.

oxygen, a fact which was worrying local fishermen. "Now, when we take hyacinths for our compost," says Gnanih, "we're also doing the fishermen a favour."

Also on the recommendation of Toulouse University, the centre built a latrine with a small wastewater purification tank, which doubles as a nursery for fish. The latrine empties into a long, shallow tank lined with blue plastic.

The staff periodically add water hyacinths, which proliferate in the nitrogen-rich water. Besides being used for compost, the plants, which are rich in vitamin A, make nourishing fodder for pigs and chickens.

Chickens fed on the plants produce eggs with harder shells and yellower yolks. The tank is kept relatively free of flies, thanks to frogs that live in the web of water hyacinth leaves and feast on flies and

Sewage into trees

New Delhi—An Indian scientist has developed a way of growing trees on raw sewage that could turn sewage lakes around the country's cities into forests and prove a cheap and profitable way of treating effluent.

At the Karnal-based Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), soil-chemist Ranbir Chhabra grows trees on ridges along shallow trenches receiving sewage water. Depending on season and plant type, up to one million litres of sewage per day per hectare (90,000 gallons per day per acre) can be disposed of. The trees act like bio-pumps and quickly absorb sewage water.

Chhabra has successfully grown eucalyptus and poplars. A crop of five-year-old poplars earned \$3,750 for the institute.

According to Chhabra, heavy metals such as lead and cadmium are not accumulated in the soil of sewage water plantations and the land can safely be used for agriculture. Says N.T. Singh, director of CSSRI: "It is a clean system of forestry from dirty water."

Sewage treatment is costly and hundreds of millions of litres of raw sewage are channelled into the rivers of India every day. Farmers divert free-flowing sewage to their farms and use it for growing vegetables, a dangerous practice as vegetables absorb harmful substances from effluents. Warns Chhabra: "Raw sewage should only be used for growing non-edible crops such as trees."

So far, the technique has been used in locations around Haryana and Punjab. ■

PANOS

The \$200 house: Adaptable, affordable and efficient

By Marie Vander Elst

A British-based private enterprise has come up with a design for a house costing just \$200. Simple, ecologically sound and efficient, it can be adapted to regions beyond the African prototype.

The secret of the low cost lies in the use of local building materials and low labour costs. The two-room house measures 3.5m by 4.5m by 2m high, and has an internal wall. Its walls are made of stabilized soil blocks, and the roof from fibre-concrete tiles.

helps to preserve the fragile African bush. A house built with bricks requires the energy equivalent of 20 trees to fire the bricks, but with the stabilized soil blocks, only half a tree is used.

For the roof, fibre-concrete tiles (FCT) are used. They are quick and easy to make, using local materials. No firing is needed and cement content is limited.

Production of the tiles requires much labour but little capital. The tiles are light, durable and visually appealing.

Intermediate Technology has been promoting acceptance of FCT technology in Kenya at a policy level. It has also helped to establish small enterprises. About 100

extent, natural fibres and dung give it a longer lifespan.

Designers recommend that the house be equipped with the Kenyan *mandaleo* stove, which is 40 per cent more fuel-efficient than the traditional three-stone fire. This stove considerably reduces smoke emissions, which are major contributors to lung and eye diseases. In Kenya, some 500,000 households have bought those stoves, which cost about \$2 each.

"In each country, houses have to be designed according to local conditions," explains Theo Schilderman, of IT. "You can build a cheap house using other materials. The actual design has to be done according

to what is available locally. How we build the house varies quite a lot from one country to another."

The estimate of one billion homeless was made in 1987, the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. And the situation is not improving: it is predicted that the number of homeless people or people living in unsanitary, unhealthy and overcrowded conditions will have doubled by the year 2000.

Partly because housing for the poor is often a low priority for urban investment, the homeless poor have proved resourceful in building their homes, using whatever they find, from flattened biscuit tins to panels

wrenched from abandoned cars.

Western technology has yet to provide affordable solutions to the housing problem. Industrial building production requires heavy capital investment. Developing countries cannot afford expensive imports of iron and steel, nor the heavy transport costs necessary for access to the rural areas. ■

GEMINI

Marie Vander Elst is a Belgian journalist studying at City University, London, with particular interest in development issues.

Guinness not good for fruit-flies

By Wendy Barnaby



After years of research, the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, working with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), has found a better way of controlling the fruit-fly. Rather than blanketing crops with chemical sprays, which are not terribly effective in any case, they have developed a bait partly derived from beer by-products that attracts and poisons the destructive pests.

The fruit-fly, a worldwide problem for farmers, lays its eggs on fruits like mangoes, peaches and apples as they begin to ripen. The larvae eat their way into the fruit, until they pupate and become fruit-flies to continue the cycle. The damage they do to fruits invites diseases and fungi to take hold, making the fruits unmarketable.

The technique the researchers have used is to make a bait of hydrolysed protein, which fruit-flies find particularly attractive and other insects do not. There is something about the odour of hydrolysed protein that very strongly draws the fruit-flies, but not other insects, to it.

The hydrolysed protein is a by-product of the Guinness beer brewery at Petaling Jaya, in Malaysia. Apparently, there is something special about the stout brewing process that produces this very potent attractant.

The attractant is then mixed with a poison chemical to produce a bait. This is then spread around the orchard, in small dollops, on leaves. Putting the bait out in this way means beneficial insects like bees and natural enemies are not harmed by spraying. Fruit-flies are attracted to the bait and are killed on contact with it.

The bait spraying was tried initially in starfruit orchards, in Malaysia, because starfruits are a very important crop, both for consumption in Malaysia and for export. The starfruit farmers found that they got many more starfruits when bait sprays were applied, as compared to cover spraying with insecticide of the whole orchard. The fruit-flies were very effectively controlled, but the other pests in the orchard seemed to be fewer as well, probably because the natural enemies were coming in and controlling them.

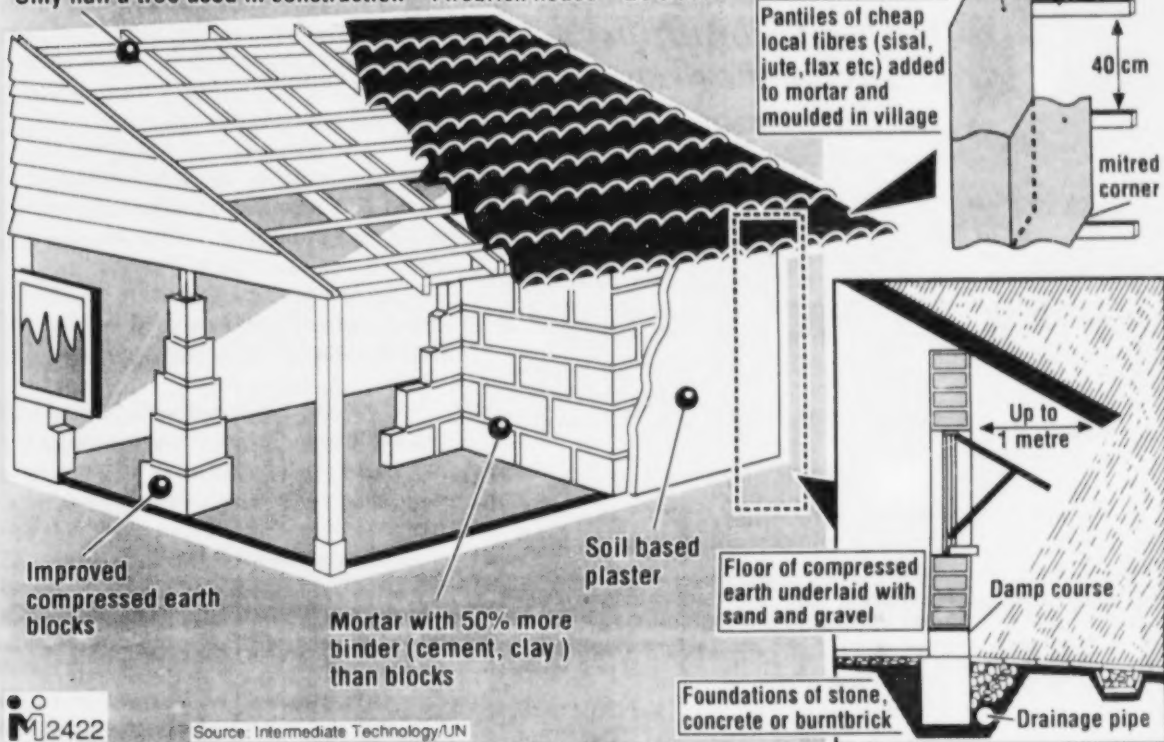
The farmers also found that better fruits were forming, because there was better pollination as bees were coming back into the orchard, whereas previously they had been killed by the cover sprays.

The Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute has now prepared the bait commercially and is marketing it in Malaysia and in Thailand under the name of Proma. ■

BBC Farming World

For information regarding this project contact Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), GPO 1571, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia.

Only half a tree used in construction - Firebrick house = 20 trees



Source: Intermediate Technology/UN

The house has been devised by the London-based non-governmental organization, Intermediate Technology (IT), and already some of this type have been built in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The project holds out serious hope for the one billion people on earth who do not have a decent home. The \$200 price-tag does not include labour charges, since in Africa houses are often built communally with family and neighbours.

A major advantage is that the house

workplaces have been created in Kenya to produce the tiles. To date, 1,700 houses have been roofed with FCT tiles in a housing development site near Nairobi.

The earth used for wallblocks has several advantages as a building material: earth can be easily compressed, absorbs heat well and is slow to transmit it.

It erodes readily, however, and is vulnerable to wind and water. Stabilizers are used to make it more solid. Those include cement, lime, resin, bitumen and, to an

New tactic against erosion

Many rangelands in the drier areas of the world have been badly damaged by overgrazing, making much of the land completely bare of vegetation. When it rains, the water and topsoil just run straight off, leaving the land just as dry as before. Bringing such damaged land back to life is expensive and time-consuming and few village people have either the money or the time to put into it.

However, in southern Tanzania, the Matanga people have developed a simple and cheaper method for rehabilitating the land. They build new catchments and plant them up with a cash crop like cowpeas.

These micro-catchments are semi-circular hollows dug into the hillside. Water collects in the hollows and soaks into the ground rather than running off and causing



soil erosion. Cowpeas are planted on the small bank and benefit from the extra moisture provided by the micro-catchments. When the cowpeas are harvested, they can be sold for cash and more than pay for the time and effort put into digging out the micro-catchments.

The idea has now been successfully introduced to people who have the problem of degraded land near Machakos, in Kenya. They have found that plenty of shrub and grass seeds get washed down. These seeds soon germinate and at the end of the season, after the cowpeas have been harvested, there is a good cover of grass and shrub. These, of course, benefit from the extra water collected the following season. At the end of two or three years, a good cover of vegetation develops. ■

BBC Farming World



A farmer delivers potatoes to a cold-storage facility at Daudkandi, Comilla, Bangladesh. The 4,000-ton facility was built with UNDP assistance to reduce food wastage and improve the earnings of potato growers.

Bangladesh

New crop a hot potato

Dhaka—As its grain production fails to keep pace with population growth, Bangladesh is turning to other crops like potatoes to feed its population.

Rice is the staple for the 110 million people in this low-lying delta country, but although paddy harvests have been growing steadily there is a shortfall in production. Last year Bangladesh imported three million tons of grain.

In recent years, the government in Dhaka has tried to diversify crops and get farmers interested in planting alternate foodstuffs.

The potato is the most promising new crop, and cultivation of this tuber from the new world has spread widely across the fertile alluvial farms of Bangladesh.

But it has been difficult to change the people's food habits. The potato is eaten as a vegetable here, and not as a main food dish. Bangladesh's annual per capita consumption of potato is 33 lbs—less than one-tenth the figure in many Western countries.

Responding to government incentives, over a million farmers have switched to growing potato and some have benefitted from soft loans for fertilizers and agro-chemicals to improve yield.

Potato production has zoomed in the last two years, with a record 1.6 million tons harvested this season. Bangladesh has about 4 million acres of land suitable for potato cultivation, but the agriculture department says potato is being grown in only about 500,000 acres.

Potato yield even in the existing area could be doubled with improved seeds and fertilizers, experts say.

But there are also indications that Bangladesh's potato story may have been too successful. Huge potato harvests this

year have resulted in over-supply and a slump in the price of the crop.

Over a million farmers have been hit hard by the fall in prices, and many have not been able to pay back loans they took to buy fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.

One potato farmer said his crop was selling for about 11 cents per pound, while the production cost is nearly 22 cents per pound.

Because of the bureaucracy involved in taking loans from commercial banks, many farmers have borrowed money from local loan sharks at high interest rates. Being unable to pay back the loan, many peasants risk losing their land.

Middlemen from city markets are also taking advantage of potato farmers, buying the crop right off the fields at throw-away prices and selling it for five times the rate in Dhaka.

To prevent falling prices from hurting projects to improve food production the government is planning to set up an agricultural prices commission. This was recommended in a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) review of the agricultural sector last year.

Bangladesh's agricultural planners had hoped that the excess potato crop could be exported to countries in the region, but lack of preservation facilities have not matched the phenomenal growth in supply.

Refrigeration units for storing potatoes are not adequate, and much of the crop rots after harvest, or en route to cold storage units in the cities.

Bangladesh exported a few hundred tons of potatoes to Malaysia and Singapore in 1985, but the cargo spoiled in the ship's hold because of sloppy storage. Export drives were never revived after that. ■

IPS

New push for rainfed farming

By Mahesh Uniyal

New Delhi—Dazzled for three decades by the wonder crops of the Green Revolution, South Asian countries may pay the price of mass hunger for relying too heavily on artificial irrigation and ignoring rainfed farming.

Experts at an international conference on rainfed agriculture held in April say there may not be enough food for all of South Asia's millions by the turn of the century even though higher-yielding crops have boosted farm outputs in recent decades.

Many countries are relying too heavily on artificial irrigation, neglecting rainfed farming.

But the food crisis can be averted, they add, if governments in the region develop rainfed agriculture, at present neglected even though it is the central mode of farming in this predominantly agricultural part of the world. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has also been urgently recommending that these countries reduce their reliance on artificial irrigation.

In India, the largest South Asian country, about 70 per cent of cultivated fields are rain dependent. But with little input of improved seeds, chemicals or machinery, they yield only roughly 25 per cent of the country's food stocks.

The small peasant cultivators, among the poorest people in the region, do not get either credit or easy loans available to those farming artificially-irrigated fields. They also rarely receive the benefit of government support prices or the attention of government agricultural advisers.

Over 600 delegates at the conference, organized jointly by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), urged planners to turn their attention to rainfed farming.

Agricultural experts say low-income South Asian countries will have to strengthen

basic support services (markets, inputs, credit and transportation) to rainfed agriculture to attain food production goals.

Though India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, unlike their other South Asian neighbours, have attained food self-sufficiency, production will have to increase by more than 50 per cent to keep pace with rapidly expanding populations, planners say.

By the end of the 1990s, India will have to grow an additional 100 million tons of food, most of it on rainfed farms, to feed over one billion people.

At present only a quarter of India's cropped area is artificially irrigated, while the proportion is three-quarters in Pakistan, half in Sri Lanka, a fifth in Nepal, and a sixth in Bangladesh, which remains the poorest country in the region.

"The extremely weak research and extension activities in rainfed areas in South Asia must be strengthened", says ICAR deputy director C. Prasad. Agricultural experts like Prasad argue that the low priority given to research and extension work in rainfed farming is largely responsible for the stagnating yields.

Officials claim that while a hectare of rainfed land yields only roughly half a ton of wheat or paddy, farmers can harvest more than twice the produce from an irrigated field.

Most peasants in South Asia rely completely on the monsoons for irrigation. The only exception is Pakistan where only an estimated 25 per cent of farmlands are rainfed.

However, rainfed fields produce more than half of the 10 most important crops in these countries. Peasants growing most pulses, oilseeds and commercial crops depend only on rain water. ■

Correction

In our May-June 1991 issue, the article "Four-legged electric generator" described Chandra Shekhar as a former prime minister of India. At the time the article was published, he was still in office. P.V. Narasimha Rao assumed office as new prime minister on 21 June 1991.—Eds.

Biotech potatoes make bugs sick

One of Britain's foremost biotechnology companies, the Agricultural Genetics Company (AGC), has begun a project to develop sweet potatoes which will be able to defend themselves from pests.

A while ago AGC and scientists from Durham University in the United Kingdom found that specific genetic material in cowpeas defended that plant against pests. This genetic material enables the plant to produce chemicals that upset the digestion of insect pests when they eat the leaves.

That genetic material was successfully transferred into tobacco and was found to have the same effect in that plant. Now the idea is to put the same genetic material into sweet potatoes.

With funds from the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the International Potato Centre in Peru will supply the AGC with elite germ-plasm from its large collection of sweet potatoes so that the transfer can be made.

The project is expected to take three years, and at the end of that period it is hoped greenhouse trials can begin. It will be necessary to carry out certain safety tests before the field trials start. It is hoped that within six years the new potato will begin to be available to farmers.

Using conventional breeding techniques, this kind of project would have taken over 15 years. However, in the case of sweet potatoes, it would not have happened at all because there are no sweet potatoes with this sort of genetic resistance.

In this particular project, AGC is waiving its patent rights because ODA is backing the work. It shows that mechanisms can be worked out to ensure that biotechnology can be transferred to the developing countries so that poor farmers can benefit, and that it is not something that can only be sold to rich farmers in the developed world. ■

BBC Farming World

Development banks pushed towards private sector

By Judith Evans

The world's development banks, traditionally key financiers of public-sector development projects, are under growing pressure to extend their mandate to the private sector. This new emphasis on private-sector lending is a major issue at the World Bank and was hotly debated at the 1991 annual meetings of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Key donor countries see such lending as a way to empower the private sector, promote free-market policies and reduce the state's role in the economies of borrower countries.

Although the United States recently failed in its campaign to get 50 per cent of World Bank lending directed to the private sector, it may have succeeded in persuading the bank to orient more of its loans to bolstering the private sector.

Critics argue, however, that public-sector lending, which still accounts for the vast majority of development bank loans, remains effective and that loans to government ministries continue to enhance the private sector, if indirectly.

Promotion of private sector initiatives has reached a fevered pitch in recent years. At least since 1988, when the World Bank's capital replenishment was being negotiated, donor governments, especially the United States where "private sector" development is a policy priority, have used the periodic funding rounds to expand the presence of private-sector considerations in bank lending policies. However, the sudden shift from planned to free-market economies in Eastern Europe and other developing regions, and forecasts of capital shortages among the industrialized nations, have intensified the debate over the balance of public/private-sector lending by the development banks.

Pressure to privatize

In recent years, each of the major development banks has tried to counter donor country criticisms that too little bank lending was geared to facilitating private initiative. Following the lead of the World Bank, which created its special private-sector lending arm—the International Finance Corporation (IFC), in 1965—the IDB set up the Inter-American Investment Corporation in 1989. The Asian Finance and Investment Corporation was established by the ADB in the same year.

Defenders of public-sector lending point to the crucial infrastructural development that is funded and which, also true in the industrialized countries, is not attractive to private investors. The World Bank argues that by lending for infrastructural projects, like schools, roads or irrigation systems, it is creating an "enabling environment" for private-sector investment and development. In other words, that it is lending "for" if not "to" the private sector.

Still, within the development banks themselves a number of changes have been made to facilitate private lending. The ADB's Asian Finance and Investment Corporation operates very much like a private investment bank.

The AfDB has followed suit, setting aside \$200 million for a private-sector department that will become operative this year. More importantly,

private sector development?"

In fact, one of the major concerns expressed by the critics of increased lending to the private sector is the risk to the Triple "A" credit rating now held

organization of bank staff.

While there is little debate regarding the desirability of "private-sector development", pragmatic differences and varying regional concerns divide the industrialized nations.

For the European Community, with its concerns focused on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the question is how to get those economies on the capitalist road. For the United States, heavily involved in maintaining reform efforts in Latin America, the preoccupation is how to keep those economies on the

market-oriented road. The Asian picture is more complex. Its mix of very successful economies alongside some of the world's poorest and the commanding presence of Japan place the region at the margin of what is today a European-United States debate. That is not, however, written in stone. Many participants noted that at both the ADB and the AfDB meetings, Japan alone supported higher funding levels for concessional lending and was more vocal about differences with other industrialized nations than in the past. Given its own particular economic history of public/private sector collaboration, Japan's contribution to the debate may be the one the world's development banks must wait to hear before the deadlock is broken. ■

Judith Evans writes on international finance institutions from Washington, DC.



Alfredo/Caretas/Lima

Reprinted from World Press Review

all the banks are now engaged in policy or structural adjustment lending which is designed to support government programmes to introduce market-based reforms, such as reducing tariff barriers, privatizing state enterprises and creating capital markets.

New bank breaks tradition

As a sign of the times, the newest development bank—the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)—explicitly reversed the development bank tradition of lending to governments by mandating—at United States insistence—that 60 per cent of its loans go directly to Eastern Europe's private sector. The EBRD was inaugurated on 15 April in London and is headed by Jacques Attali, formerly an adviser to French president Francois Mitterrand. The organization is charged with aiding in the reconstruction of Eastern Europe and has a modest start-up capital base of \$12 billion, reflecting the support of its 39 member countries and two European institutions.

There are other indications that the development banks are changing their ways of doing business, reflecting major shifts in donor and recipient countries alike.

For a start, the rising importance of Japan as a donor nation was underscored by the holding of the IDB's annual meeting in Nagoya and the fact that Japan superseded the United States in 1989 to become the world's leading donor nation.

Despite its recent and well-publicized reluctance to increase the capital of the World Bank's IFC, the United States has led the push to increase the influence of the private sector in borrower countries arguing that they are moving in the direction of free-market policies faster than the international institutions which should be providing them financial support and advice.

United States treasury officials cite two reforms which would allow the development banks to optimize their assistance to the private sector. They would reduce financing through development finance institutions (DFIs), like national development banks. Officials cite an assessment by the World Bank in a 1989 report called *Developing the Private Sector* where the insolvency and poor management of DFIs is highlighted.

Another policy recommendation, according to United States officials, is to incorporate a private sector assessment component in all country reviews. Hypothetically, the entire lending programme of the World Bank to any given country is subject to a periodic global review by Bank staff, but policymakers want to include a specific set of questions that ask "What has this (lending) meant to pri-

by all the development banks. Were the private investment risk to be assumed by the banks, many argue, that rating could be lost. This would then only increase the cost of borrowing by the world's poorer nations.

Furthermore, the opposition to the United States position argues, eliminating DFIs from the process avoids the real challenge of reforming the financial systems of borrower countries, and raises fears of yet another level of conditionality on lending programmes already heavily encumbered by rules and regulations.

Defenders of the broad outlines of current development bank practices also point out that criteria for judging the impact of a hydroelectric plant, for example, on the private sector cannot be limited to a simple question of dollars and cents. Others argue that implementing the United States reforms would require a costly and lengthy re-

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Trade Green light for Uruguay Round

Geneva—This August a new series of talks are expected to indicate if an agreement on international free trade can be reached before the end of this year in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

the United States congress in May to extend the Washington administration's "fast-track" authority for further negotiations until the end of the year. An earlier deadline for agreement had expired.

According to Dunkel, "more and more participants" in the talks believe that agreement on an international free trade pact can be reached before the end of the year. Talks on such an accord collapsed in Brussels in February, mainly because of disputes between the European Community

domestic support, border protection and export subsidies, which were at the root of the disputes in February.

IPS

World food situation deteriorates

Rome—Citing a deteriorating agricultural situation in several regions of the Third World in recent months, Edouard Saouma, director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), urged international donors to increase their aid and not to give way to "donor fatigue" in aiding the Third World. He said that the world community must not abandon the victims of natural disasters (see related story on NGOs on page 20).

FAO reports that there are 30 million Africans facing famine conditions. Saouma said that at least 5.7 million tons of food are needed to alleviate the emergency situation, but only 3.4 million tons have been promised by donor countries and organizations. If food aid is not speeded up, he said at the end of June, "we are going to witness a general loss of life from now to the end of the year."

Countries most affected were Ethiopia, Sudan, Mozambique, Liberia and Angola, which did not have the capacity to produce their own food, a situation made worse by natural disasters and civil war.

Saouma said that in Bangladesh the inhabitants who have managed to save themselves from the cyclone and floods of 30 April "will face great difficulties in feeding themselves since all their food sources, particularly rice, livestock and fish, have been seriously affected".

Several countries of Eastern Europe require economic, technical and food aid because of the substantial reduction in their reserves. FAO is analysing production systems and the possibility of setting up new agricultural models for Eastern Europe.

on the average by a number of years. The gap is widest in France (8.3 years) and in Finland (8.2 years).

• Japan recorded the lowest infant mortality rate—4.4 per 1,000 live births (infants under 1 year of age).

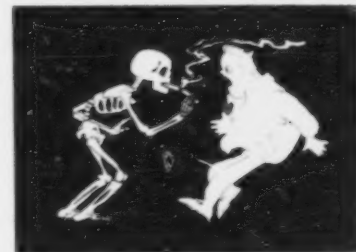
• The most populous countries or areas in 1989, ranked by size, are: China, India, Soviet Union, United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Viet Nam, Federal Republic of Germany, Philippines, Italy, United Kingdom, France, Thailand, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Ethiopia, Republic of Korea, Myanmar and Spain.

• *Demographic Yearbook*, Sales No. E.F.90.XIII.1, \$110 (cloth), \$85 (pbk). Available from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York or Geneva, or from bookstores and distributors throughout the world.

mostly through administrative measures.

A total of 81 countries have imposed restrictions on smoking in health establishments (27 in Europe, 16 in the Western Pacific, 16 in Africa, 13 in the Americas, 5 in South-East Asia and 4 in the Eastern Mediterranean).

Sixty-eight countries restrict smoking in schools or educational facilities, and in premises intended



In June, the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) of the Uruguay Round gave the green light for the "result-oriented" talks to its chairman, Arthur Dunkel.

Dunkel presented to the TNC a work programme for talks which will be "concentrating as far as possible on the questions where negotiating breakthroughs have to be achieved".

The new series of talks was made possible by the decision of

and the United States over agricultural subsidies.

Since the official collapse of the talks, informal consultations and "technical work" continued, in expectancy of a United States congress decision to continue the negotiations.

Optimism on the part of the negotiators seemed to be fed also by the fact that the European Community expressed willingness earlier in June to enter into specific commitments in the fields of

Health Smoke-free goes international

Geneva (WHO)—An analysis carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) of available information from its 166 member states shows that about 100 countries have some kind of restrictions on smoking in public places. Of these, 63 have adopted legislation in this field, a clear indication of government concern; the remaining 40 restrict smoking

ed for use by young people: Europe 25, Americas 12, and 31 in Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific.

Sixty-three countries limit smoking in entertainment establishments, 56 in government buildings, 24 in restaurants, 22 in food processing establishments, and 17 in sports premises.

More than 70 per cent of all legislative measures restricting smoking in public indoor places have been introduced since 1980, and about 30 per cent since 1988, reflecting the rapid increase in governmental and public concern against the harmful effects of passive smoking and in the demand for non-polluted air.



Sasakawa International Environment Prize

Leading environmental law experts Wolfgang and Françoise Burhenne, from Bonn, Germany, were the joint winners of the 1991 UNEP Sasakawa International Environment Prize.

Funded by the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (the Sasakawa Foundation), under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the prize is conferred on individuals and institutions for "an exemplary contribution that unites the nations of the world in working to protect the environment".

Under the direction of Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin, the Environmental Law Centre of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in Bonn has collected, analysed and indexed the world's most extensive documentation and collection of legislative texts on national and international environmental law. Wolfgang Burhenne was one of 12 signatories to the Morges Manifesto that established the World Wide Fund for Nature in 1961.

The prize, worth \$200,000, was awarded on 5 June, World Environment Day.

Population Longer lives

Women in Japan, Switzerland, France, Sweden and Macau have a life expectancy of at least 80 years and men in Japan and Macau have a life expectancy of 75 years on the average, according to the forty-first edition of the *Demographic Yearbook* * (1989). In all low-mortality countries, women live longer than men on the average.

Other highlights from the *Yearbook*, which is prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, are:

• One-third of the world population is under 15, while only 6 per cent is 65 years or over.

• Seventy-eight countries or areas reported that a substantial segment of their population was born outside the country of current residence, indicating that international migration is an important determinant of population change.

• In all low mortality countries, women live longer than men

Big boost for ozone

Nairobi—China has acceded to the amended Montreal Protocol for the protection of the ozone layer, agreeing to reduce use of ozone-depleting chemicals. The decision, announced in June, was received with acclamation by parties to the Protocol because they were well aware that without the co-operation of China and India, the world's largest nations, all other international efforts to stop stratospheric ozone depletion from accelerating would be undermined.

The amended Montreal Protocol to the Vienna convention for ozone layer protection calls for a complete phase-out of the following: fully-halogenated chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by the year 2000; halons (used in fire-fighting), except for essential uses; carbon tetrachloride by the same date; and methyl chloroform by the year 2005.

Citing the importance of this advance in international co-operation, Mostafa K. Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), noted that China would

need technical and financial support to fulfil its pledge. He reminded the Nairobi meeting of parties to the Protocol that under the terms of the agreement achieved in London, China's ratification would mean that the Multilateral Fund, established to help developing countries fulfil their obligations under the Protocol, would be raised from \$160 million to \$200 million for the years 1991-1993.

China's announcement lightened the gloom caused by the knowledge that ozone depletion is accelerating at a higher level than the predicted rate. Tolba had earlier warned that the present amended Montreal Protocol might have to be tightened further, in light of the latest scientific findings.

"Ozone depletion is now being recorded over most of the planet," he said. "Science clearly warns that even with an immediate phase-out of all CFCs and related compounds, the world is committed to worsening ozone destruction well into the next century."

The year the world stood still

The global economy will experience zero growth this year, according to the *World Economic Survey 1991*, recently published by the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA). This translates into an almost 2 per cent drop in *per capita* output. Some recovery, with growth forecast at 2.1 per cent, is expected in 1992. In 1990, there was only 1 per cent economic growth globally, down from 3 per cent in 1989.

No single factor accounts for this poor performance, say the report's authors, in spite of the increasing interdependence of the world's economies. Instead, the major economic determinants varied by region, with recession in the developed market economies, political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and the Gulf conflict among the most important, downside variables.

Risks remain

According to the *Survey* authors, the end of the Gulf war earlier this year lessened some of the major uncertainties surrounding the short-term outlook for the world economy. It no longer seems likely, for example, that oil prices will soar to the very high levels foreseen at the beginning of the crisis, and consumer and business confidence appears to be returning, at least in some developed market economies.

Yet major questions and sizeable risks remain, including the threat of political instability in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Perhaps more important for the world economic outlook is the uncertain speed of the transition to market-based economic systems in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Large fiscal imbalances, high inflation, privatization woes, the breakdown of intra-regional payments arrangements and ethnic and political problems make the growth prospects of these countries difficult to gauge.

The outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations,

resuscitated this year after collapsing in December 1990, is another area of uncertainty that will vitally affect the world's economic growth prospects, according to the *Survey* authors. Even in the short term, they observe, failure of the negotiations could lead to a surge of protectionism and a loss of confidence in the trading system that would present a serious risk to the world economy.

World Economic Survey forecasts zero growth and unclear future.

Based on their assumptions and analyses, the *Survey* authors foresee economic growth in the developed market economies slowing to about 1.4 per cent in 1991, down from 2.4 per cent in 1990 (see Table). A recovery marked by a 3 per cent rise in GDP is forecast for 1992.

In the European Community, relatively strong, albeit slowing, growth in western Germany in 1991 is expected to offset negative or very low growth rates in most other countries of the region.

In Canada and the United States, private consumption is forecast to be more depressed in 1991 than in 1990.

In South and East Asia, GDP is forecast to rise by about 5.5 per cent in 1991, down from 6.1 per cent in 1990. In most countries, the slow-down can be attributed to weaker demand in the developed market economies, capacity constraints and the negative effects of the Gulf crisis.

Despite the slow-down, GDP growth is expected to remain above 5 per cent in a number of economies, including China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan Province of China and Thailand. Pakistan's output is expected to grow by nearly 5 per cent in 1991 and somewhat faster in 1992. In

India, GDP growth is expected to slow to about 4 per cent in 1991.

In China, less restrictive monetary policies are expected to encourage higher rates of investment in industrial plant and equipment. Agricultural output is also expected to expand substantially. Combined with buoyant consumer demand, these factors will accelerate GNP growth to about 5.5 and 6.0 per cent in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

West Asia

In West Asia, declines in output are forecast for 1991 due to the disruption of economic activities caused by the crisis in the Gulf, the trade embargo and the destruction of productive capacity in Iraq and Kuwait. Strong growth in the construction sector and the gradual restoration of oil production and refining capacity are expected to lead to positive growth in the second half of the year and to result in a sharp increase in output, possibly by as much as 10 per cent, in 1992.

Latin America

In most of the large and medium-sized countries in Latin America, GDP is expected to stop contracting, or to expand at a slightly faster rate in 1991, resulting in overall GDP growth for the region of about 1.5 per cent. Growth in 1992 is expected to approach 3 per cent.

In Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela, substantial progress has been made in reducing the level of external debt and in boosting exports, so that debt service obligations are now lower in relation to export earnings, permitting some acceleration of growth in 1991 and 1992.

Among the smaller countries of Central America and the Caribbean, except for Costa Rica, there has been much less progress in reducing external debt. Terms of trade deteriorated with the rise in oil prices in 1990, civil unrest is a problem in some countries, and changes in trade regimes in East-

ern Europe and the Soviet Union have meant a considerable erosion in Cuba's import capacity.

Africa

Most countries of Africa continue to be highly constrained by structural problems, pressure on government budgets and weak growth in exports, compounded by deteriorating terms of trade. GDP growth in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding Nigeria, is not expected to exceed 3 per cent. This implies a continuation of nearly a decade of declining output *per capita*. Nigeria, however, is forecast to grow by about 4 per cent in 1991, somewhat less than the 5 per cent recorded in 1990.

Eastern Europe and USSR

Countries in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union found that economic reform incurred high short-term costs, as output contracted by 6 per cent in 1990 and is forecast to contract by a larger amount in 1991. The abrupt switch to world market prices for

trade among the former members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) is expected to lead to a sharp contraction in trade and to intensify trends of declining output.

A sharp decline in output is forecast for the Soviet Union in 1991, given the breakdown of the discipline of contract fulfilment in the centrally planned system, limited progress in establishing market mechanisms, and uncertainty regarding the decentralization of responsibility for economic policy between the Union and its constituent Republics.

In most of the countries of Eastern Europe, output declines are expected in 1991. In Poland and Romania, however, a small increase in output is expected for 1991 following a large decline in 1990. In 1992, Poland is expected to grow by about 5 per cent, led by a recovery in exports and industrial production.

World Economic Survey 1991 may be obtained from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York or Geneva, or from bookstores and distributors throughout the world.

Development Redefining 'Least Developed Country'

Reviewing the criteria for identifying the least developed among the developing countries, a group of United Nations economic experts recently recommended seven new countries to be classified as least developed countries (LDCs): Angola, Cambodia, Ghana, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia.

They also recommended that Botswana, which enjoys a relatively high per capita GDP and meets the graduation rule, be dropped from the list of LDCs. They did not recommend Namibia for LDC status as it was judged to have a high *per capita* GDP and enjoys considerable natural resource endowment. The General Assembly had asked the expert group to review Namibia's application last year. If these recommendations are approved, the total number of LDCs will increase to 48, from the current 42.*

The definition of an LDC and the usefulness of such a classification have been a matter of controversy for some time. The original set of criteria for identifying LDCs was adopted back in 1971, and has been modified twice since then. Doubt has been expressed as to whether the criteria in fact help donors give special considerations to LDCs in allocating their development assistance.

Pending a judgement of the General Assembly on this issue, the 24-member United Nations Committee for Development Planning recently revised the LDC criteria, by taking into account the special characteristics of the least developed countries, namely "poverty combined with structural impediments which make it more difficult for them to achieve sustained development without special assistance from the international community".

The Committee now defines LDCs as "those low-income countries that are suffering from long-term handicaps to growth, in particular low levels of human resource development and/or severe structural weaknesses". *Per capita* GDP (annual average for the

last three years) is still used as the most practical tool with which to measure poverty. Using the criterion the World Bank uses in defining *per capita* income, the expert group sets the cut-off point for including a country in the LDC list at about \$600.

To measure the level of human resource development, the Committee has used an augmented physical quality of life index (APQLI) which comprises four indicators: life expectancy at birth, per capita calorie supplies, combined primary and secondary school enrolment ratio, and adult literacy rate.

Structural weakness is measured by two criteria: 1) natural handicaps, such as small population, geographical isolation, landlockedness, high climatic risks which may be measured by an index of instability of agricultural production or by such specific climatic risks as proneness to droughts, floods and cyclones, on a case-by-case basis; 2) low economic diversification which may be measured by a composite index, called EDI, comprising share of manufacturing in GDP, share of employment in industry, per capita electricity consumption, and the export concentration ratio.

Additional indices relating to natural endowment, exports and official development assistance may also be considered to measure structural weakness. Some differentials in those indices are set for those countries that are being included in or excluded from LDC status.

Even though the group of experts did not recommend Namibia for inclusion, they noted the highly skewed income distribution, particularly the very low average per capita income of the non-white population engaged in traditional activities. They recommended that the international community adopt special measures for Namibia to assist the newly independent nation in mobilizing its considerable economic potential.

Yasuhiro Ueki

*Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen.

Growth of population and output, by region, 1989-1992

	Population 1990 (millions)	Population growth rate (annual %)	Rates of change of gross domestic product (annual %)			
			1989	1990*	1991*	1992*
World	5 292	1.8	3.0	1.0	0.0	2.1
Developed market economies	813	0.6	3.3	2.4	1.4	3.0
North America	276	0.8	2.5	1.0	1.0	3.1
Western Europe	358	0.2	3.4	2.7	1.2	2.3
Developed Asia	144	0.5	4.6	5.0	3.1	4.1
Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*	405	0.6	1.4	-6.3	-9.5	-4.5
Developing countries	4 074	2.1	3.4	2.9	3.5	5.0
Western hemisphere	432	2.1	1.1	-0.7	1.5	3.0
Africa	606	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.0	3.0
West Asia	130	3.0	2.4	0.0	-0.5	7.0
South and East Asia	1 686	2.2	6.0	6.1	5.5	6.0
China*	1 139	1.5	3.3	4.8	5.5	6.0
Mediterranean	81	1.5	1.0	-0.7	2.0	4.0
Memorandum items:						
Heavily indebted countries	612	2.3	1.5	-0.8	1.5	—
Sub-Saharan Africa*	383	3.2	2.7	1.9	3.0	—

Source: UN/DIESA. Data on population growth rates are those published by DIESA in *World Population Prospects, 1990* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XIII.4).

* Preliminary estimates.

* Forecast, based on project LINK and Secretariat estimates. For the groups of developing countries, estimates are rounded to the nearest half percentage point. Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union excludes former German Democratic Republic, which is included in Western Europe; there is therefore a break in the series after 1990 for the developed market economies and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

* Net material product; data for 1989 are government estimates.

* Excluding Nigeria.

PrepCom III: Setting the priorities

By Michael McCoy

Now that the extensive agenda for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) has been set, government delegations face the harrowing task of deciding on the priorities within that agenda. What items go to the top of the long list?

For this reason, the third PrepCom, meeting in Geneva from 12 August to 4 September, promises to be the most difficult phase in the preparations of UNCED. In addition to agreeing on a set of priorities in approaching the issues on the agenda of the Earth Summit, participants must achieve a rough consensus on the amount of financial resources that will be necessary to carry out the ambitious goals of the so-called Agenda 21 and the most rational, efficient and realistic "institutional mechanism" necessary to complement the proposals that represent the sub-



World Watch David Chen

There is now concern that what can realistically be accomplished by the conference in 1992 has been oversold.

stance of Agenda 21. Agenda 21 is the catch-phrase for the post-Summit agenda or action plan that flows from the Earth Summit recommendations.

The 18 weeks between the last Geneva PrepCom and the upcoming August session have been used by governments to continue work on their national reports, which are due in to the UNCED secretariat late this fall. They have also had an opportunity to review

the conference documents and reports prepared by the UNCED secretariat and to caucus informally to think through some of the more persistent conundrums presented by this most complex of international conference agendas. These questions include How do Southern nations achieve sustainable development on their own terms without submitting to a "new environmental conditionality" from the North? How does the United Nations system build the authoritative mechanism necessary to implement Agenda 21 without creating a new bureaucratic monster, and causing all sorts of turf battles with other United Nations agencies?

Two "intersectoral gatherings" were especially important. The Chinese government hosted a meeting for Southern government ministers of environment to discuss what one participant described as, "What does sustainable development really mean for the South?" In addition to the Southern ministers of environ-

ment, several like-minded governments from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, including the Nordics and Canada, were invited to attend. UNCED secretary-general Maurice Strong also participated in the meeting's deliberations.

In early June the Canadian government hosted two informal gatherings of New York-based United Nations mission representatives responsible for following the UNCED process. The topic was the "institutional challenges" presented by the implementation of Agenda 21 (see box).

Lowering expectations

There is now some concern, particularly expressed by Strong and others in the UNCED secretariat, that the results of what can realistically be accomplished by the conference in 1992 has perhaps been oversold, and that governments will have to be more systematic in their views of how quickly the Earth Charter and Agenda 21 can realistically be implemented.

It seems to be recognized that a concept as new and complex as sustainable development will require if not a single decade then perhaps 25 years for the international community to incorporate into governmental and intergovernmental bureaucratic structures at all levels. A recognition of this long-term time-frame for planning was the logic for the creation of the United Nations Decade for Women 1976-1985. Conferences in 1975, 1980 and 1985 helped to keep women's issues on the agenda of governments and the United Nations system. Each conference was able to set new goals and processes and to review progress over the past five years. There is now talk of having subsequent United Nations conferences on environment and development in 1997 and 2002 and maintaining a permanent UNCED secretariat staffed by professionals seconded from various United Nations system offices.

Discussions on institutional mechanisms also recognized the need for some new quasi-public/private, non-profit organizations such as an international "Network on Training and Research" that would develop models for least-cost energy planning at a country level, a computer-friendly

database system called perhaps the "Sustainable Development Network", and an international "Scientific Advisory Council" that would look at the technical and substantive aspects of sustainable development, not the policy implications.

Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) find it interesting that out of the above proposals, which are largely environmental and technical in nature, there is nothing like an institute for "Bridging the Gap between the Rich and Poor", or an advisory council on "Economic Democracy and Sustainable Development". Perhaps these kinds of recommendations cannot be expected to come from governments at this time but instead will have to come from citizen organizations.

As many big fights go, the ones at the August PrepCom in Geneva will probably revolve around money: how much is needed, where it will come from, what kind of conditions for the recipients, and how it will be administered. This is not unusual for United Nations conferences. At present it seems that there will be a proliferation of separate funds depending on the issue or convention: climate change, forestry

The real big fights at the August PrepCom will probably revolve around money.

or transfer of technology, etc.

The only fund close to implementation is the World Bank's Global Environmental Facility which is capitalized to the tune of approximately \$1.3-\$2 billion, only a small fraction of what the international community will require. As Northern governments largely determine the disbursement of World Bank funds, it is expected that Southern governments will want some role in setting the conditions. There is also a question of whether a large super-fund related to sustainable development needs would put all the funding under one umbrella.

Northern governments have already accepted the fact that new and additional financial resources will be necessary for

Southern governments to implement the various international conventions and stricter environmental regulatory standards. How much money is necessary is still up in the air.

At a regional roundtable where the public and NGOs reviewed the draft of the United States national report for UNCED held in San Francisco in early June, ambassador Robert Ryan, the number-two person on the United States delegation to UNCED, was asked by an NGO representative how much his government intends to contribute. Ryan responded, "You don't want us to give away our bargaining position before the negotiations begin, do you?" In other words, we may not know until the Earth Summit, and this is probably the case for Germany, Japan and other big donors as well. ■

Michael McCoy is director of the United States-based Center for Citizen Advocacy, and is Development Forum's special correspondent for the Earth Summit.

TNCs and the environment

The United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations is preparing action-oriented recommendations to mobilize transnational corporations (TNCs) and other large enterprises to co-operate in protecting and enhancing the environment in all countries. The guidelines will be worked out in close consultation with international business organizations, TNCs, non-governmental organizations, environment and development experts and experts from international organizations and United Nations bodies.

The recommendations, which will be the Commission's contribution to the preparatory process for the June 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, include the following:

- Observance of international environmental standards and guidelines, both governmental and corporate;
- Improving management and regulation of industrial processes, including the application of corporate worldwide environmental and development policies and the maintenance of consistently high environmental, health and safety standards for all products, processes and services;
- Developing and providing access to environmentally sound technologies particularly for developing countries;
- Using environment and development accounting and reporting methods;
- Consideration of principles such as the "polluter pays", preventive action at the source, and the precautionary approach to environment and development issues;
- Minimizing the risks to human life, health, property and the environment, as well as the question of reparation of damage.

The Commission also plans further work on the feasibility of establishing mechanisms for financial or in-kind contributions by TNCs for protecting and enhancing the environment. The findings of the research project on the "Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms" will be forwarded to the third session of the Preparatory Committee (Geneva, 12 August-4 September 1991).

Post-Earth Summit: Who will carry out Agenda 21?

As many readers may know by now, there have been several institutional mechanisms proposed for implementing Agenda 21 within the United Nations system after 1992.

Northern and Southern governments seem to agree that creating a new free-standing sustainable development institution is not an option at this time. There seems to be a widespread fatigue by governments after 45 years of creating so many different United Nations agencies, commissions, councils, centres, etc. for very specific programmes. Many feel that the collective effectiveness of the United Nations system has been seriously compromised as a result of this proliferation.

Alternatives to a new and independent body include: strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and broadening its role, reforming the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to include a high-level co-ordinating committee with oversight and authority over all

United Nations agencies, changing the present Trusteeship Council into an Earth and Environment Trusteeship Council, or having the executive director of UNEP and the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly chair a high-level, substantive, "inter-agency task force" of United Nations system representatives to implement the results of UNCED system-wide.

For one reason or another, all of this has been seen as non-starters. The conclusion from the New York gatherings, according to one participant, was that an "existing administrative or deliberative mechanism such as the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) or the Second Committee of the General Assembly would ensure that environmental concerns and standards would be injected into all parts of the United Nations system". In this concept perhaps an Environmental Co-ordinating Board would be created within ACC. M.M.

A kitchen called Tawantinsuyo

By Beryl K. Jacobs

Lima—Apolonia Martínez awakens at 6:00 every morning to the sound of her rooster crowing and begins to ready her youngest child for school. This is one of Martínez's only private moments of the day. Beginning at 6:30, neighbourhood women will gather in her kitchen to prepare a communal meal for neighbours. She too will be swept into the routine of cooking lunch for 176 people.

Martínez lives in Independencia, one of Lima's poorest shantytowns, which is built into the steep, arid mountains surrounding the city. She and her neighbours established their communal kitchen when Peru's already disastrous economic situation was hit by government-sponsored shock treatment in May 1989.

Overnight, even basic food items became prohibitively expensive for the shantytown dwellers. Today, as the economic crisis deepens, her life revolves around the communal kitchen, which ensures her large family a solid, inexpensive meal each day, as well as providing her with links to the community around her—and a chance to make things change.

When they first moved to Independencia in 1972, Martínez, her husband and her six children built a house of straw thatch and plastic garbage bags, but after a couple of years, they were able to build the two-room adobe hut that they now inhabit.

The densely-populated Ermitano district of Independencia has no sewage system, no water facilities and most homes do not have electricity. A few neighbours have planted trees which struggle to survive in the dust. Every three or four days the government-supplied truck arrives at the bottom of the mountainside to sell water. Stairs up the mountainside are rare, so most inhabitants must risk a 15-minute precipitous walk down and a 30-minute hike back up the mountain to get their water.

Back in May 1989 Apolonia Martínez decided, along with 10 of her neighbours, to pool their meagre resources to fight inflation. They gathered in front of Martínez's home, sitting on the waist-high adobe walls and large boulders surrounding her house and discussed the basics of forming a kitchen. Many already had an idea because they had seen other kitchens functioning, and all had the initial vision of communal work that stems from communal farming in the highlands. For the time being, they would have to use the small two-burner kerosene stove in Martínez's home, and rotate cooking in their personal pots according to who was on cooking duty that day.

The women elected Apolonia Martínez president of the kitchen, and Juana Vega the treasurer. Nancy Vallejos became the secretary and Lucia Mena the health representative. They decided to name the kitchen Tawantinsuyo, after the pre-Columbian Inca empire capital. The following week the kitchen began to function.



Faced with seemingly endless belt-tightening, the women of Lima's slums have organized communal soup kitchens to keep their families fed.

How it works

This communal kitchen, like many others in Lima's poor neighbourhoods and indeed, all over Latin America, functions well, not only because of the extraordinarily strong spirit of co-operation among the women, but because they are economical and time-saving. "We know that if we want our children to eat one nutritious meal a day, we must all co-operate and contribute," says Isabel, treasurer of another kitchen.

Communal kitchens function somewhat like a co-operative: each member is required to complete weekly rotational duties, including cooking and distributing the meals once a week, retrieving water for the day, descending the mountain to the market to buy food for the day's meal, and participating in the weekly member meetings.

In addition to her weekly duties, each member pays a share of the costs for the food, usually about 10 cents per ration per day. The number of members of each communal kitchen ranges from 15 to 300 local women, each requiring from 4 to 14 rations per day to feed their families. The Tawantinsuyo kitchen has 26 members.

When the lunch preparations at the Tawantinsuyo kitchen begin, the four members in rotation that day decide on a day's menu, which generally consists of soup

(containing a piece of meat or chicken, if affordable), and a main dish of meat or vegetables accompanied by a grain. Two women descend to the market with the day's shopping list. Two other women stay behind and begin with preparations like boiling water for the soup and

sifting the grains until the shoppers arrive and the chopping and cutting can begin.

Water is the critical factor in Independencia's hygiene, as has been made so clear with the recent cholera epidemic that has swept through such neighbourhoods. Because of its scarcity, water is reused—first for cooking, and then to clean the grains, vegetables, pots, etc. Fresh water is used only as a soup base. Throughout the morning each family delivers its pots and buckets to receive the day's rations, and by 11:30 distribution begins. The Tawantinsuyo kitchen prepares between 126 and 174 rations per day, depending upon each member's money availability for the day.

Another benefit

The communal kitchens like Tawantinsuyo provide another significant benefit beyond a good meal. Although the houses in Independencia are situated close together with little or no privacy, women rarely have social contact with each other. Community collaboration efforts are strong, but interpersonal contact is often limited. For many of the members, interaction through the Tawantinsuyo kitchen is the first close contact that they have had with their neighbours.

The activity of the kitchen demands a regular commitment and constant interaction. The women begin to trust and depend on one another because the nutrition of their family depends on their neighbours' level of commitment. Martínez had been friendly with a few of her neighbours, some of whom are also from Ayacucho. Now, however, the activity of the kitchen demands her constant interaction with them. "As a result of the kitchen, the neighbourhood has become much more of a real community. Neighbours are working together, helping one another," says Martínez.

With time, the women in the Tawantinsuyo kitchen have begun to form a sense of co-dependency and trust. As this deeper sense of community develops, the support network begins to extend beyond kitchen-related duties. For instance, when Señora Mena needs to go to the health clinic, she

now asks her neighbour Señora Vega to look after her daughter for the afternoon.

This new interaction has meant that certain attitudes in the lives of everyone involved have changed: the attitude of spouses toward their wives, the attitude of the members of the general community toward the women, and most importantly, the woman's own attitude toward herself.

The women, most of whom are recent immigrants from the highlands, have been raised to believe that as women they are inherently inferior to men and unworthy of individual rights. Women are taught that men are more deserving of basic necessities and opportunities such as food and education, and that it is their role to serve the men in their lives.

Some of the women in the Tawantinsuyo and other neighbourhood kitchens in Independencia have begun to break with these traditional roles as a result of their interacting with other women in the kitchens. "At first, my husband was opposed to the idea of my forming a kitchen," says one of the original organizers named Marlena. "He said that my place was in the home, taking care of the children. He felt threatened that I was doing something on my own. But once he saw that I was completely committed to forming the kitchen, and once I was able to make him understand that the kitchen would ultimately benefit him, our children and the neighbours, he changed his view. Now sometimes he even helps."

Community networks have formed among the kitchens in order to fight more effectively for their rights before the government. Three centralized organizations have been founded in Independencia to act as intermediaries between the kitchens and the government and non-governmental aid organizations. They became increasingly important after the newly-elected president took office in August 1990 and little of the food aid that was promised by the government had materialized.

The women have tried, through protests and letters, to influence government policies toward the shantytowns by demanding the promised aid, but ultimately the women have resorted to working around the government in order to survive. Uncontrollable health problems—cholera is only the most dramatic—are taking the heaviest toll in the shantytowns. Peru has not been able to develop a water and sewage infrastructure to keep up with the flow of internal immigrants moving into the shantytowns.

Even international aid from NGOs and churches is not disseminated without problems. These groups have been regularly donating dry food and cooking oil for years. The donated aid creates debilitating competition between kitchens as they each attempt to procure more donations than their neighbours, and wastes the women's days and nights as they stand idly in line, sometimes for days at a time, waiting for the donations to arrive. Señora Vega remarks: "We have been receiving aid here in Independencia for years. The women don't work if the aid is coming in. All of their energy goes to trying to get more aid, not to trying to change the system so that maybe the aid wouldn't be necessary."

Despite the profound hardships that the women who form the communal kitchens must face, their spirit remains undaunted. Even the nearby bombs and gunfire from the ongoing battle between the army and guerrilla organizations do not intimidate these women in their struggle. They are accustomed to fighting for their homes and the few basic rights that they have gained. This grassroots involvement is the initial stage of empowerment of Peruvian women, their spring-board for controlling their own destiny. "Since I formed the kitchen, I feel a new self-respect. I think that other people in the neighbourhood notice a difference in me. I am a new woman; maybe someday I'll even run for president!" says Apolonia Martínez. ■

Beryl K. Jacobs, a freelance writer living in Peru, is researching women and development issues.



Women in Apolonia Martínez's kitchen clean up after lunch. Their communal work has profoundly changed the way they see themselves.

Over the past two years, Africa's political landscape has been swept by astonishingly powerful waves of democratic reform. Whether through street protests, public referendums or local and national elections, pressure to speed the process of democratization has shaken many of the continent's restrictive political systems.

Proponents of reforms see in this the refreshing beginnings of Africa's "second liberation", the extension of the anti-colonial aspirations for freedom into the realm of domestic political, social and economic affairs.

Others, including some well-intentioned leaders, warn that an opening-up could enable latent conflicts to surface, bringing a period of political instability to some countries already reeling from acute problems. They cite, for example, a possible resurgence of ethnic tensions and conflicts—"tribalism" as the Western media usually terms it—a problem that single-party systems were often expected to contain.

The only certainty in these early stages of the lengthy process is that the experiments will take many forms and proceed at different speeds. But, should Africa's still-fragile drive toward democracy take firm root, new economic development prospects are likely to open up, permitting better mobilization of people's energies and initiatives and more effective use of scarce financial resources.

Continent-wide

The urge to political reform has been born of a decade of painful economic decline and disenchantment with autocratic rule. Millions of Africans, in widely scattered parts of that vast continent, have entered into political action and organization, asserting their right to speak out, to have a say in the policies that affect their lives, to demand an accounting from those who rule.

Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mali, Niger, Togo, Zaire and other countries, some marked by years of political stability, were suddenly plunged into a whirlwind of street protests, strikes and outbursts of popular discontent, as people sought some respite from deteriorating living standards and stifling political conditions.

In a continent previously characterized by widespread single-party rule, more than a score of governments have acceded to demands for greater freedoms, often rewriting constitutions to permit the emergence of contending political parties, an independent press, free elections and other liberties.

Multiparty elections were held for the first time (or the first time in many years) in Benin, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon, bringing changes of government in the first three. In Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Mozambique, Togo, Zambia and Zaire, among other countries, opposition parties have proliferated and national elections have

been promised. In Nigeria two parties will contest elections next year, as part of the military leadership's phased transition to civilian rule.

In Tanzania, people are debating whether to make democratic reforms within their one-party system or to permit multiple parties. Uganda and Ghana have experimented with alternative forms of non-party representation, although a constitutional process has been initiated in Ghana that may include a role for political parties there as well.

A few governments have resisted real change—at the cost of explosive political and social tensions. In Ethiopia, Liberia and Somalia, authoritarian governments were brought down by rebel insurgencies. In Mali, violent repression of pro-democracy forces prompted a military coup and the emergence of a transitional government committed to free elections.

The Arusha blueprint

Overall, most African governments have agreed to some extent to "yield space to the people", as recommended by a precedent-setting conference of African grassroots organizations held last year in Arusha, Tanzania. Organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), that conference issued a bold and far-reaching "African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation" urging human-centred and participatory development policies, protection of basic human rights, and support for independent, grassroots organizations.

Reflecting a now-common view, the "African Charter" advanced a stinging critique of much of Africa's post-independence history, marked by "an over-centralization of power and impediments to the effective participation of the overwhelming majority of the people".

When most of Africa first gained independence in the 1960s, many countries started off with

Corruption, venality and authoritarianism are likely to find a less favourable climate, and governments will have to pay greater attention to the aspirations of their people.

parliamentary systems. But these proved highly unstable, having been erected hastily upon a legacy of colonial autocracy. With few trained personnel, they were expected to govern territories encompassing a great diversity of cultures and traditions, and at the same time meet high popular expectations for rapid social and economic progress.

This they failed to do. Some parties became the instruments of privileged elites. Some came to represent specific ethnic groups. Election campaigns were sometimes reduced to bitter struggles over who would gain control over the distribution of scarce government jobs and resources.

In the name of stability and order, most parliamentary systems eventually were either transformed into single-party states or were swept aside by a succession of military coups (nearly 80 over the past 30 years).

"In time," acknowledges Niger-

Democracy in Africa?

Reforms may unleash energies that enable Africans to solve their systemic crises.

By Ernest Harsch



ia's former head of state, retired general Olusegun Obasanjo, "power came to be concentrated not so much in one party as in one man... Dissent, for which there had always been a secure and honoured place in traditional African society, came to be viewed with ill-conceived hostility, almost as if it was treason."

Generally, entrenched governments could only be changed through force. In just a few rare cases—Senegal's Léopold Sédar Senghor, Tanzania's Julius Nyerere—did presidents decide to step down voluntarily.

Since closed political systems shielded officials and leading civil

servants from public scrutiny, corruption found fertile ground. And since usually only the wealthy and privileged had access to the corridors of power, official policy tended to serve their interests first of all.

Many accounts of Africa's democratization process cite the influence of events in Eastern

Europe, a factor readily acknowledged in Africa. Some also see a degree of inspiration from the freeing of Nelson Mandela and the legalization of the liberation movements in South Africa.

Although influences have come from outside the continent, Africa's pro-democracy movement has strong domestic roots. Popular demands for greater democratic freedoms in Africa pre-date the Eastern European events, reflected, for example, in the Senegalese government's decision in the late 1970s to permit opposition parties and the brief period of parliamentary politics and democratic debate in Sudan in the mid-1980s. The "African Alternative Framework to Structure Adjustment Programmes", drafted by ECA in early 1989, months before the fall of the Berlin Wall, specifically highlighted the "pervasive lack of democracy" as a principal cause of Africa's economic crisis.

That crisis, in turn, has provided a central impetus to the democratization movement. For years, most Africans have been experiencing an unprecedented decline in living standards, as real wages plummeted, farmers received poor prices for their crops, schools and health clinics fell into decay, and growing numbers of unemployed youths swelled the cities. Many blamed high-level mismanagement and corruption, and bridled at government officials' apparent insensitivity to popular grievances.

Workers and students protest

In Morocco, Nigeria and Zambia abrupt price hikes provoked street rioting. The Benin government's inability to pay civil servants' salaries for months at a time did much to spur strike action and political protest. In Niger a reduction in university scholarships prompted the initial student protests. In Côte d'Ivoire workers responded sharply when the government, as part of its structural adjustment programme, announced that it would levy a "solidarity tax" on all public and private sector employees. A sharp fall-off in Gabon's oil earnings brought austerity measures—as well as street barricades, clashes with police and widespread strikes.

Many people drew a direct connection between their economic plight and the paucity of basic liberties. Without an effective say in policy-making, they felt little obligation to accept further sacrifices, especially since the burdens of austerity were not falling on everyone with equal weight. So immediate, local grievances very quickly escalated into popular challenges to the established systems of government.

On top of these powerful internal pressures, African governments were being urged to move toward

multiparty systems by the continent's major international donors. British, United States, French, German and Japanese officials, as well as key figures in IMF and the World Bank, have been stating more forcefully that they will take into account progress toward political liberties and improved "governance" in Africa when deciding how to allocate their aid.

A condition for aid

"We should use aid as a lever for better government," said Britain's then-foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd. Referring to United States aid allocations, assistant secretary of state for African affairs Herman Cohen stated, "In this era of limited resources, we intend to pay special attention to Africa's democracies and to countries which are actively engaged in the democratization process." Some analysts regarded higher United States disbursements to Benin, Mozambique and Namibia as "rewards" for introducing multiparty political systems.

However, many African leaders, including those favouring greater political freedoms, wonder whether such aid "conditionality" is the best way to advance the cause of democratization. They also question donor motivations and consistency and resent external efforts to dictate the specific forms of political change.

No single model

Many Africans clearly believe that the introduction of multiparty politics is a step forward, one that can provide at least a measure of political pluralism and greater leeway to speak out and influence policy. But some warn against excessive optimism and reject the idea that multiparty elections, as such, are sufficient to bring a fundamental democratization of political and social life.

Salim Salim, secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), cautions against "the temptation of decreeing a so-called perfect model of democracy". Discussing prospects for democracy recently, OAU's then-president Yoweri Museveni said that Africans must develop their own models of democracy, rather than those imposed by the European states. But, he warned, "the democratic cart should not be put before the economic horse," stating that the continent was still in a "tribal stage" of political development.

"A multiparty system is not a solution to the problems of Africa," argues professor Ernest Maganya of Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam. "Many issues affect our situation. If these issues are not understood, it doesn't matter if you have 10 parties, two parties or one party." Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, who is also the retired leader of that nation's sole and ruling party, has stated, "What is needed is democracy and freedom." Whatever parties are formed in his country, he believes they should stand for socialism and national unity and be secular.

The old argument that single- or non-party systems are needed to maintain national unity has lost much of its force. Ethnic tensions have not been eliminated in most single-party states, and in some have worsened, especially where political power and privilege have been monopolized by leaders of particular ethnic groups.

"If there is social pluralism, that is in fact an argument for a democratic form of governance," argues Claude Ake, a prominent Nigerian political scientist, who notes that top-down efforts to suppress ethnic differences have often tended to backfire. Olara Otunnu of Uganda, who heads the New York-based International Peace Academy, maintains that the movement toward democracy must incorporate "full recognition to the reality of ethnic diversities at the same time that national unity is being nurtured and promoted", including a rejection of any "ethnic hegemony" and the adoption of special measures to redress conditions in disadvantaged regions within African countries.

A culture of democracy

More broadly, for democracy to thrive and have a real meaning for the peoples of Africa, Maganya argues, it is essential that "a culture of democracy" be established. This, he says, is a "historical process", which must include the formation of independent trade unions, community associations and other popular organizations, free from government control.

A culture of democracy must include formation of media, trade unions and grassroots organizations free from government control.

The African Charter for Popular Participation insisted that it is essential to "establish independent people's organizations at various levels that are genuinely grassroots, voluntary, democratically administered and self-reliant and that are rooted in the tradition and culture of the society so as to ensure community empowerment and development". It specifically emphasized autonomous women's and youth organizations, as well as trade unions that strive toward democratic practices in the work place.

Popular organizations have already been emerging for some years. They are usually active at the local level and address immediate problems. To cite just two examples, Burkina Faso's independent "Six S" peasants' movement grew from just 5,000 to 160,000 members between 1983 and 1989, while the environmentally-oriented Green Belt Movement in Kenya now encompasses half a million villagers, and is led primarily by women. Some groups, especially in rural areas, draw on Africa's traditional forms of communal association and egalitarianism.

Calls for the independence of student associations and trade unions have featured prominently in a number of the recent pro-democracy movements, while in Mozambique, Tanzania, Angola, Congo and elsewhere the central trade unions have loosened ties to their governments and ruling parties.

As people become more active in their own organizations, they build up skills and self-confidence, and thus their capacity to participate in political life more broadly. They provide a "school of democracy", as

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UNDP development priorities

Continued from page 1

these areas would increase fourfold," it says.

At present, only one-twelfth of total aid is earmarked for human priority goals. This shows the enormous potential for releasing more resources for human development by restructuring priorities in aid budgets.

The 1991 report is the second in a series, prepared by a team of economists under the overall guidance of Mahbub ul Haq, former minister of finance and planning in Pakistan.

Human development index

Last year, UNDP, which is the largest multilateral funder of development projects, introduced a human development index (HDI), ranking 130 countries by a single measure combining life expectancy, adult literacy and basic purchasing power. The 1991 report refines that index and expands it to cover 160 countries, while introducing a new "human freedom index" to show the relationship between freedom and development (see related story below). It shows how rich countries, as well as poor, have room for more human development.

The HDI is a composite index based on three variables—life expectancy, educational attainments and basic purchasing power—for a decent living standard. Japan tops the list in the index,

while Sierra Leone is at the bottom.

This year, several separate HDIs have also been computed which are more sensitive to gender disparities, income distribution, progress over time and measurement of human freedom. The HDI shows that income does not automatically translate into human development.

Many countries rank lower in their HDI than in their *per capita* income, showing considerable potential for improvement in their human development levels if their national incomes are spent more wisely.

When the HDI is adjusted for gender disparities, countries shift ranks. For instance, Japan slips sharply from number 1 to 17 and Finland moves up from 12 to 1. When the HDI is adjusted for income distribution, the ranks of several countries—including Brazil, Nepal and Côte d'Ivoire—go down dramatically because of the great maldistribution of their incomes.

Thus, the various refinements in the HDI make it a more reliable yardstick of socio-economic progress, in contrast to the long-held tradition of measuring a country's economic and social progress exclusively by its gross national product.

The report also frankly acknowledges that the existing distribution of resources usually suits those in power and their influential supporters. A workable political



Five-point compact for human development

The *Human Development Report 1991* advocates the view that significant human development is possible in the 1990s if people are put at the centre of every national and global issue. It suggests a global compact for human development, built around five components:

(i) Realistic human goals for the year 2000 should be adopted by each country, including universal primary education, primary health care, family planning, safe water for all, and elimination of serious malnutrition and abject poverty. The additional costs of these goals are estimated at around \$20 billion a year.

(ii) Developing countries should cost these human goals, incorporate them in their development plans and investment budgets, and formulate a feasi-

ble growth and resource strategy for their implementation.

(iii) Most of the additional costs could be met from cuts in military spending. A 3-per-cent-a-year cut in industrial countries could release \$25 billion a year. A mere freeze of military spending in developing countries would save potential increases of over \$10 billion a year.

(iv) Donors should reassess their aid priorities and commit themselves to the support of human development.

(v) A favourable world environment must be created—including a resolution of the international debt crisis, restoration of adequate capital flows on acceptable terms to the developing countries, and a vigorous move towards a far more open world trading system.

strategy is needed to restructure resource priorities.

Besides showing how to finance human development, the report breaks new ground in several other areas. It further refines the concept and measurement of human development. Defining human development as "the process of enlarging people's choices", the report elaborates three essential components of this concept: development of the people—which includes investment in their education, health, nutri-

tion and social well-being; development by the people—which implies full participatory development; and development for the people—which must satisfy everyone's needs and provide income and employment opportunities for all. ■

The Human Development Report 1991 is available from the following publishers: English: Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, North Carolina 27513, United States; French: Economica, 49, rue Harcourt, 75015 Paris, France; Spanish: Santiago Pombó, Tercer Mundo Editores, Calle 69 No. 6046, Bogotá, Colombia; Arabic: Al-Ahram Publishing, Al-Ahram Building, Sharia El-Galaa, Cairo 92544, Egypt. Price in English: \$15.95 (paperback), \$29.95 (hardcover).

Freedom index stirs debate

Although the *Human Development Report 1991* takes on such prickly issues as military spending, corruption and other misallocations of scarce resources, the item that has caused greatest controversy is its human freedom index. This measure is recommended for the first time in the report in the belief that the measure of human development in any country is incomplete without looking at its record of human freedom.

Upon publication of the report in June, the Group of 77, which represents 128 developing countries in the United Nations General Assembly, challenged the validity of the index and questioned the right of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to inject itself into the ongoing international debate on human rights. There was concern that human rights, particularly those reflecting Western values, would become a condition for granting development aid.

The index is based on a 1985 study, *World Human Rights Guide*, by Charles Humana, a British academic, and relies on 40 key indicators of freedom, including multiparty elections, press freedoms, rule of law, right to travel and assembly, opportunities for gender and ethnic equality, and other democratic freedoms. All have been endorsed by international accords such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNDP maintains that the ranking, which places Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland at the top and China, Ethiopia, Romania, Libya and Iraq at the bottom, aims to enhance understanding

of the human dimension in various societies. While "freedom is hard to quantify or to measure," the authors of the report argue, no one can deny the link between freedom and human development. The report points out that no country that ranks high on human freedom has a low level of human development.

"We uphold and cherish human rights," said the G-77 chairman, Kofi Awoonor of Ghana, in his challenge to the index. "But we do not think that human rights should become a central concern of the UNDP." Addressing the governing council of UNDP, Malaysian ambassador Razali Ismail, a former G-77 chairman, argued that UNDP is "neither an appendage of Western societal mores and values nor is it, despite financial contributions, a vehicle of donor countries to apply conditionalities on so-called human rights issues". Other developing country spokespersons question its relevance and, given that it is based on outdated information, its accuracy.

While acknowledging that the index needs updating and improvement (the current index covers only 88 countries, for example), UNDP head William H. Draper III defended its continued use. "We should not let our concern with finding a better way to measure freedom question the need for integrating freedom into our concept of human development," he argued. Regarding concerns that aid allocations might become conditional on human freedom, Draper commented, "We do not favor such conditionality. We are not recommending it to others. We shall not practice it ourselves." ■

The human freedom index

Country ranking

The human freedom index, prepared with 1985 figures, measures 88 countries against 40 different indicators of human freedom, among them: the right to travel and ethnic language; freedom from capital punishment, compulsory religion or unlawful detention; the freedom for political opposition and independent press; the legal right to free legal aid and open trial; the personal right to interracial, inter-religious or civil marriage and homosexuality between consenting adults. Figures on the left indicate number of freedoms upheld in each country.

38 Sweden (1)	23 Senegal (31)	8 Kenya (63)
38 Denmark (2)	*21 Panama (32)	8 Cameroon (64)
37 Netherlands (3)	21 Dominican Rep. (33)	*7 Hungary (65)
36 Finland (4)	19 Israel (34)	7 Turkey (66)
36 New Zealand (5)	*18 Brazil (35)	7 Morocco (67)
36 Austria (6)	18 Bolivia (36)	7 Liberia (68)
35 Norway (7)	16 Peru (37)	*7 Bangladesh (69)
35 France (8)	15 Mexico (38)	*6 German Dem. Rep. (70)
35 Germany, Fed. Rep. of (9)	14 Korea, Rep. of (39)	*6 Czechoslovakia (71)
35 Belgium (10)	14 Colombia (40)	6 Saudi Arabia (72)
34 Canada (11)	14 Thailand (41)	6 Mozambique (73)
34 Switzerland (12)	14 India (42)	5 Cuba (74)
33 United States (13)	14 Sierra Leone (43)	5 Syrian Arab Rep. (75)
33 Australia (14)	13 Nigeria (44)	5 Korea, Dem. Rep. of (76)
32 Japan (15)	*13 Benin (45)	5 Indonesia (77)
32 United Kingdom (16)	11 Singapore (46)	5 Viet Nam (78)
31 Greece (17)	11 Sri Lanka (47)	*5 Pakistan (79)
31 Costa Rica (18)	11 Tunisia (48)	5 Zaire (80)
30 Portugal (19)	11 Egypt (49)	*4 Bulgaria (81)
30 Papua New Guinea (20)	11 Ghana (50)	*3 USSR (82)
29 Italy (21)	*10 Poland (51)	3 South Africa (83)
29 Venezuela (22)	*10 Paraguay (52)	2 China (84)
27 Ireland (23)	*10 Philippines (53)	2 Ethiopia (85)
26 Spain (24)	10 Tanzania, U. Rep. of (54)	*1 Romania (86)
26 Hong Kong (25)	9 Malaysia (55)	1 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (87)
26 Botswana (26)	8 Zambia (56)	0 Iraq (88)
25 Trinidad and Tobago (27)	*9 Haiti (57)	
*25 Argentina (28)	8 Yugoslavia (58)	
25 Jamaica (29)	*8 Chile (59)	
24 Ecuador (30)	8 Kuwait (60)	
	*8 Algeria (61)	
	8 Zimbabwe (62)	

Source: UNDP Human Development Report

* Countries where multiparty elections have been held since 1985.

Real men use contraceptives

Continued from page 1

after she became pregnant that I realized that she had been right and I should have listened to her."

By the time Kofi and his fiancée set their marriage date, he had become a family-planning enthusiast and had founded the local Daddies' Club, a family-planning

'We had less problems than other couples with babies. They started coming to me to ask how I was able to manage so well.'

support group set up in 1980 by the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG).

The couple decided to delay having a family, by using contraception. Kofi's friends teased him, and asked him what he would do if eventually they found they could not have a baby. Undaunted, Kofi and his wife stuck to their plan, and relied on condoms and contraceptive foaming tablets.

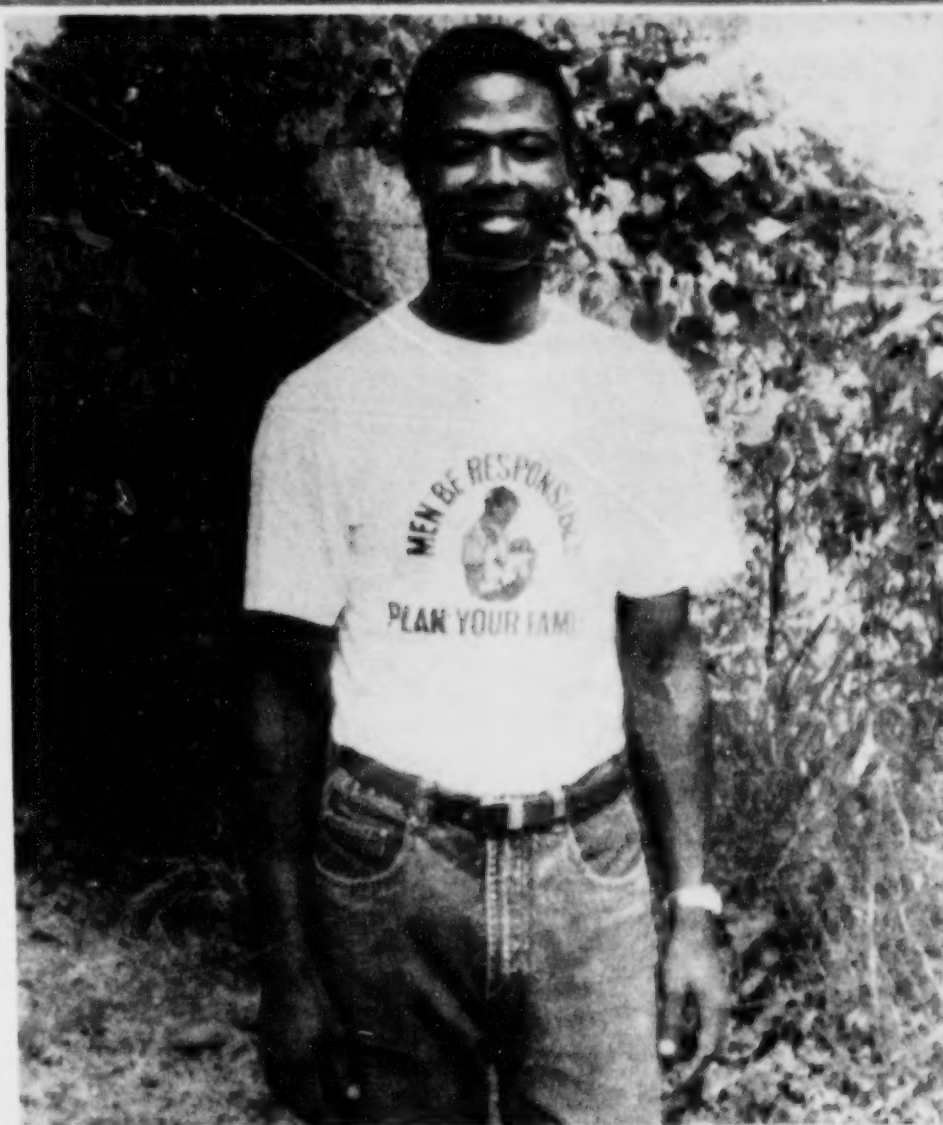
"Of course I had a prejudice against using condoms initially—like many Ghanaian men. But I got used to it," explains Kofi. "After all, there's no reason why a man should put the responsibility for contraception on the woman."

Two years into their marriage, they decided to start a family. "Because we waited until my wife was ready for it she was very fit during pregnancy and delivered the baby without any problems."

The friends who had been teasing him were silenced. And then it was Kofi's turn to laugh at them, for another reason. "During the time before the baby came, I was able to save some money and buy household items. So we had one problem less than other couples who had the care of a baby, or babies, to budget for. They started coming to me to ask how I was able to manage so well."

There was a time though that anything other than an early marriage, polygamy and a steady production of babies would have been unthinkable for Kofi. He was brought up to believe that a man "proved his manliness by the number of children he could father".

His village, Twifu Mampong, was a typical farming community. The more wives a man had, the more children he would have, thus ensuring a regular supply



Getting men to participate actively and publicly in family-planning decisions requires changes in social mores.

UNFPA Jane Turner

Ghana's Daddies' Clubs: New emphasis on men

The crucial role of husbands in determining family size first prompted a co-ordinator of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) to find a way of speaking directly to men—an audience traditionally ignored by family planning education and information campaigns.



In an effort to overcome a cultural reluctance to discuss sexually-related matters in public, Sabena Etua Mensah, from PPAG's Western Region, had the idea of setting up a Daddies' Club in workplace recreational centres where male workers meet to relax after work. The Club's activities range from lectures and group discussions on a variety of health care and home management issues including family planning, to providing jerseys to the football team with a condom logo and a "Wear Me" message printed on the front.

PPAG claims that Daddies' Clubs have increased family planning acceptor rates in the area and demonstrate that, provided the approach is right, African men can accept family planning.

Such efforts to include men in family planning are somewhat new. While the focus of family planners will remain on women and the development of safe

and effective contraception methods, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in its 1991 report *State of the World Population*, points out "that special attention will be needed to develop better methods for men, to encourage them to take more responsibility for family planning."

In 1990 in developing countries reliable male methods of contraception (the condom and vasectomy) accounted for just 15 per cent of contraceptive use.

- 141 million women in the developing world have had sterilizations after completing their family, but only 30 million men have vasectomies—yet this is a much simpler procedure.
- 23 million men use condoms compared with 93 million women using IUDs and 46 million women swallowing the pill.

"The male has been forgotten in a way," says Joseph van Arendonk, deputy executive director of UNFPA, discussing the problem of the man in family planning and the creation of male awareness. "We have to realize that, in many societies, the decision about contraception is taken by the male, and we find that there are many difficulties for females to accept family planning methods because, in one form or another, they are not allowed by the male."

"In the past, we didn't create sufficient awareness among men; we didn't educate them enough," van Arendonk says. "We are now stressing the need to have specific programmes focusing on males, programmes that alert men to the need of improving the role and status of their wives."

of, as Kofi put it, "manpower"—that means women and children—to work on the farms. "The husbands were only interested in being able to thump their chest and boast about the number of children from their loins," explains Kofi, smiling. "The husband would clear some land and share it among the wives and children to farm. Having done that, he washed his hands of them, provided no clothing, nothing. They were supposed to support themselves."

It is six years now since Kofi helped set up a local branch of the Daddies' Club at his workplace in Dabose. During the weekly meetings, PPAG staff give talks on family-planning methods and general health care. Contraceptives are on sale.

Ghana has one of the higher population growth rates in the world at 3.2 per cent, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and so needs all the imaginative ideas it can get to encourage more people to plan their families. Daddies' Clubs, some with T-shirts bearing a condom motif and the words "Wear Me", offer innovative and practical ways for men to become involved. This is crucial, since each of Ghana's mothers will have to have far fewer children

than the current average of 6.3 if population targets are to be met.

One consequence of this high fertility rate is that women have only short intervals between births and little time to recover from the previous pregnancy. According to Mary Grant, a member of Ghana's ruling Provisional National Defence Council, this contributes to the maternal mortality rate of 1,000 per 100,000 live births—the third highest in the world.

High population also leads to pressure on land, a factor that has brought a change in the attitude of villagers in Twifu Mampong. "Now family planning is accepted," says Kofi with a grin, "because men realize they can't just collect wives and have children. The land is no longer available."

"Now when polygamous couples look around and compare their children with those of parents who didn't have so many, they see that those others are better educated and do better in life than their own. Now all the village people recognize that it is quality not quantity that counts, and they embrace family planning." ■

Ajoa Yeboah-Afari is a journalist based in Accra. She freelances for BBC and West Africa magazine.

World Population Day—11 July

On 11 July 1987, the world's population surpassed the five billion mark and it was marked as "The Day of Five Billion". Each year since then 11 July is observed as World Population Day, an occasion to confirm that the international community is unanimous in its support of population programmes and that there is greater awareness world-wide of the need for action to slow population growth and to promote a balance between population, development and the environment.

Today there are 5.4 billion of us. By the year 2000, says the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), another billion people will have been born—the equivalent of the population of

China. About 95 per cent of this growth is taking place in the developing regions and the fastest in the poorest countries and in marginal rural areas.

Over a billion workers earn less than a dollar a day, and more than half a billion people are undernourished. Two billion suffer from water shortages. Another billion are illiterate. No less than 14 million children under the age of five die each year from preventable diseases in the developing countries.

Responsibility for the future begins today. Reducing overall population growth will help eradicate poverty, promote human-centred development and alleviate environmental degradation. Urgent action is needed now.

Hong Kong

A colony of fat kids

By Yojana Sharma

While children elsewhere in Asia live and die in malnutrition and ill health, affluent Hong Kong worries that it is fast becoming a colony of fat kids.

Health care reports say that Hong Kong's emergence as an international centre with the affluence and lifestyle of an industrialized country is taking a toll on the health of its children.

Henrietta Ip, chairperson of the Hong Kong Child Foundation, says Hong Kong children are fatter and less fit than their counterparts in the West.

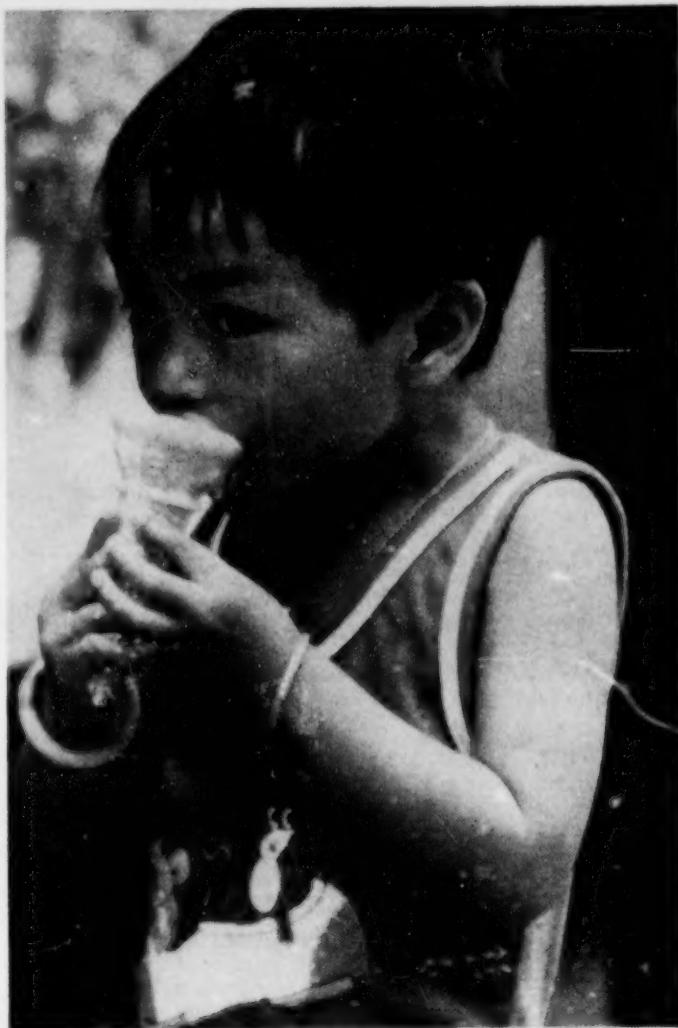
Hong Kong children may be on the way to being the most prone to obesity in the world, according to a recent study of 7,000 Hong Kong schoolchildren.

Recent data show Hong Kong children over eight years old are as fat as British children were during the 1960s and are overtaking United States children.

Hong Kong children also compare unfavourably with affluent Japan where children arguably have more money to spend and the same kind of social and environmental problems of nose-to-the-grindstone schooling and urban overcrowding.

"The pressure of schoolwork, the lack of open space, the inadequate importance placed by parents on physical fitness and a diet with more carbohydrates and fatty foods for children are all to be blamed," Ip said.

Another reason is the improvement in health care brought about by affluence. From the 1960s when malnutrition and infectious diseases were the major cause of deaths among children, Hong Kong today has one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world.



Affluent lifestyle diseases are increasing in developing countries largely due to changes in the diet.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), only seven in every 1,000 children will die in infancy in the British colony while the death rate of those aged one to four years has fallen to eight

per 1,000 compared to 64 in 1961.

Hong Kong also has one of the highest immunization rates in the world, with 85 to 100 per cent of the children vaccinated against common childhood diseases,

UNICEF said.

But with prosperity has come United States-style fast-food outlets to which Hong Kong schoolchildren flock for hamburger and pizza. The World Health Organization (WHO) has documented the dramatic increase of so-called "lifestyle" diseases (cardiovascular disorders, cancers, obesity) in a variety of advanced developing countries and territories, including many in the oil-rich Persian Gulf region and Hong Kong, which have incorporated the fat-rich diets of the industrialized countries into their own lifestyles.

Just over a decade ago, rice accompanied by vegetables, seafood and small amounts of meat constituted the staple diet in Hong Kong. The Chinese were considered a slim, supple and agile race.

"The traditional Chinese meal is relatively more balanced than Western diets, with high components of

green vegetables, fish and lean meats in general," said Edith Lau of the Hong Kong Chinese University.

Hong Kong's post-1960s affluence has put more money into children's pockets

than their parents ever enjoyed, and many of them spend it on fat-laden snack foods.

Milk shakes and ice creams have also become popular in a region where it was once believed that dairy products, particularly cheese, would be difficult to market.

"When children start school, they have an increased tendency to consume soft drinks, ice cream and deep-fried food eaten outside the home and between meals," said Sophie Leung of Hong Kong University.

Government statistics show that sales in fast-food outlets increased 25 per cent last year while in traditional Chinese restaurants sales went down 5 per cent.

Sociologists believe lifestyle is very much to blame. The metropolis of some 5.5 million is built on just a few square miles and is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

Families live cheek-to-cheek in tiny apartments in towering skyscrapers. There is little land left for recreation—even schools have long ago sold their playgrounds to property developers.

Facilities for sport have all but disappeared. In most housing developments, the only play area is on the roof.

Families often escape their crowded apartments by eating out both at traditional Chinese restaurants and now increasingly at Western-style fast-food outlets.

There are few options for entertainment outside the classroom apart from television and eating out.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's exam-oriented parents do not value physical fitness too highly. Sport is considered a time-wasting activity that detracts from homework.

And the problem is still new enough for parents not to be aware of it, health care experts say. Typically refugees from China with memories of shortages and famines, they tend to encourage their children to overeat and take pride in providing an over-laden table, experts say. ■

IPS

Democracy in Africa?

Continued from page 13

Burkina's "Six S" movement explicitly styles itself.

Strong popular organizations, moreover, give people a direct means of influencing governments, parliaments and parties. They enable different sectors of African society to assert and fight for their particular social rights, be it for women's advancement or the recognition of local cultures.

It is also through such organizations that the link between democracy and development is most evident. By mobilizing the energies and skills of ordinary Africans, they can give new impetus to a wide range of economic activities. And in a context where governments and external development agencies lack funds for vital economic and social infrastructure, voluntary and collective action can address at least some of the most pressing needs. They also tend to respond much more readily to the interests and aspirations of local communities than do outside actors.

A free press is another key element, a point highlighted at a recent United Nations-organized seminar of senior African journalists and newspaper publishers, held in Namibia. "The independent press is at the heart of the drive for democratization," said Pius Njawa, the formerly

imprisoned editor of the independent *Le Messager* in Cameroon.

New freedoms are also being sought by broadcasters in the predominantly government-controlled radio and television. "The media itself has to be democratized," says Kassaye Denema, secretary-general of the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa. "Our members are pressing for more independence from government controls. The public should have a say about what is being produced by the media." In a major step towards greater access, several countries, including Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, Algeria and Zimbabwe have recently passed legislation that allows opposition parties access to the mass media.

Vulnerable to crisis

If the flourishing of a democratic culture is important for Africa's economic development, the converse is also true. Massive poverty, famine, dislocation, social decay and economic breakdown are not the ingredients of stable democratic systems. Salim warns that Africa's fragile democratic movements may not be able to survive if the continent's economic and social conditions remain equally fragile. "While



Richard B. Mock

Africa must democratize, our efforts will be hamstrung by the non-democratic international economic system in which we operate and which militates against our development."

For the movement toward democracy to become vital and sustainable, African leaders have argued, the continent will need sufficient international backing to help it overcome its economic crisis, thus reinforcing the African peo-

ples' efforts to fashion their own democratic systems.

Given the reality of divided and conflict-ridden societies, it is likely that this process will be uneven, taking much longer in some countries than in others. Moreover, democratic reform may sometimes turn out to be more apparent than real, or may suffer serious reversals. The persistence of armed strife (in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Liberia, Angola, Mozambique and other countries) is a graphic reminder of the problems confronting any movement toward democratic change.

Nevertheless, that Africa's drive toward democracy has already been able to achieve as much as it has—under extremely difficult conditions—holds considerable promise for the future. Whatever setbacks or shortcomings there may be, the growing self-confidence of Africa's people and the proliferation of grassroots organizations point toward long-lasting changes in the continent's political environment. Corruption, venality and authoritarianism are likely to find a less favourable climate, and governments will have to pay greater attention to the aspirations of their people. Most importantly, ordinary Africans themselves will be in a stronger position to assert their rights and to inject new life into the continent's struggle for economic and human development. ■

Ernest Harsch is a staff writer for *Africa Recovery*, a United Nations quarterly.

The world's women: A portrait in numbers

For many years, women's advocates have challenged stereotypes regarding women, but efforts to reinforce their arguments with hard evidence have been undercut by the lack of reliable statistics and analyses.

A remarkable new publication now provides a broad range of statistics on and analysis of the economic and social status of women. *The World's Women 1970-1990*, compiled by the United Nations Statistical Office in collaboration with several United Nations organizations, paints the first-ever statistical portrait of women drawing on data from 178 countries on subjects ranging from marriage patterns and child-bearing to educational trends and political clout.

What women do is often unrecorded, undervalued or not valued at all.

It is not always a pretty portrait. As United Nations secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar points out in the book's introduction, "the majority still lag far behind men in power, wealth and opportunity." Adds Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, one of six women heads of state in the world: "The book provides the facts needed to pinpoint the sources and effects of persistent inequalities and take action against them worldwide."

Some highlights of *The World's Women* include:

- **Illiteracy.** Between 1970 and 1985 the number of illiterate women rose by 54 million—to almost half a billion—while the number of illiterate men rose only 4 million.
- **Marriage.** Women now spend less of their lives married and fewer years bearing and rearing children. Couples are marrying later and separating or divorcing more. This changing structure of families is profoundly affecting women. Women now head more than a fifth of all households in Africa, the developed regions, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Most often, households headed by women are poorer than those headed by men.

The World's Women 1970-1990, compiled with the co-operation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Vienna-based United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, is available for purchase from the Sales Section, United Nations Secretariat, DC2-0853, New York, NY 10017, United States, and from the Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Price: \$19.95.

- **Child-bearing.** The world over, women are having fewer children than 20 years ago. In developed regions, the average is 1.8 births per woman. In developing regions, where three-quarters of the world's women live, child-bearing rates dropped from a range of 5-7 births per woman in 1970 to 3-6 in 1990. But maternal mortality rates in Africa and southern Asia are still more than 30 times those in developed countries.



INSTRAW/Milarey Quiroga

- **Work and pay.** Women everywhere work as much as men or more, as much as 13 hours more each week in Asia and Africa. Even when women do the same work as men, they typically receive less pay—30 to 40 per cent less throughout the world.

about half those for men, among the countries for which data are available. Even in Canada, where women have made inroads into traditionally male-dominated high-paying jobs, their earnings are still only 71 per cent of men's.

Most working women are engaged in

Even when women do the same work as men, they typically receive less pay—30 to 40 per cent less throughout the world.

The report points out that women's living conditions—and their contributions to the family, the economy and the household—have generally been statistically invisible. Many statistics have been defined, it says, in terms that portray men's conditions and contributions—not women's—or that simply ignore gender. What women do is, therefore, "often unrecorded, undervalued or not valued at all".

Despite these shortcomings, it is clear, according to the report, that women everywhere contribute significantly to economic production. As officially measured, 828 million or 41 per cent of the world's women aged 15 and above are economically active. Another 10 to 20 per cent are economically productive but not counted as part of the labour force because of inadequate measurement.

Women work harder

It is also clear that women in many regions work longer hours than men. Women everywhere earn less than men and, in addition, it is men who are more likely to have regular full-time work and to receive greater seniority benefits.

In Cyprus, Japan and the Republic of Korea, women's wages are the lowest,

agriculture in much of the developing world, particularly in Africa and Asia, but this, once again, is an area where their contribution remains invisible in official statistics and continues to be poorly estimated or ignored. According to some studies conducted in developing countries, women today "may have become even more important in food production" than a few years ago "as a result of men's increased migration" to cities and towns.

This gives rise to an increase in the number of women-headed households, a growing worldwide phenomenon, observes the report. One in every five households in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean is headed by a woman. Asia has the lowest proportion of such women-headed households, but that rate is comparatively high at 14 per cent.

Women who have chosen to remain in rural areas but whose husbands migrate to urban centres find themselves with even more family and economic responsibilities. Only a few receive remittances. Most do not, making them widows in all but name. In Lesotho, one survey showed, fewer than half of the women staying home received any money from their husbands working in cities. Research in India and Pakistan showed that migrant men actually sent

remittances home, but to their fathers rather than to their wives. Here again, women turned out losers.

The global illiteracy rate is declining, but the absolute numbers of illiterates continue to grow. In 1985, there were about 949 million illiterates, an increase of 58 million from 1970. Of this increase, 54 million or 93.1 per cent were women. Lower levels of functional literacy make it more difficult for many of the rural women to understand the need for family planning and the importance of primary health care for young children.

In many developing countries, child-bearing still exposes women to an array of health risks. Maternal mortality stemming from pregnancy is 80 to 600 times higher than in the developed regions.

Adolescent pregnancy—sometimes the cause of early marriage and sometimes the result of it—is very common in developing countries. Teenage mothers have a higher risk for both maternal and infant mortality, twice the threat on mothers aged 20 to 24.

"Such pregnancy can limit a young girl's chances for education and a paying job," warns the report, "continuing the cycle of disadvantaged mothers passing on their vulnerability to their daughters, and their daughters to theirs."

Developed regions

These and other major problems and difficulties facing women are no monopoly of developing countries.

Throughout the developed regions, the health of women is generally good and their fertility is low. "But in other fields," says the 135-page United Nations book, "indicators of the status of women show mixed results."

Women's participation in economic activity is high in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, northern Europe and North America. In Australia, Japan and New Zealand, as well as in southern and western Europe, however, it remains low. In political participation, women held no ministerial-level positions during 1987-1988 in nine countries: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Spain, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Statistics show that only 3.5 per cent of the world's cabinet ministers are women. Of the 159 member states of the United Nations, only six or 3.8 per cent were headed by women at the end of 1990: Dominica, Iceland, Ireland, Nicaragua, Norway and the Philippines.

Investing in the future

Looking to the 1990s, *The World's Women* suggests that the world community take collective initiatives to advance women's interests and to broaden their opportunities. Investing in wider opportunities for women—in health, in education, in formal and informal work and in decision-making at all levels—is far more than an investment in women alone. Rather, it is an investment in their families and societies.

"It is a way to lift people out of poverty," elaborates the report. "It is a way to slow population growth. It is a way to protect the environment. And it is a way to get onto a path of equitable, sustainable development."

The cost of these changes, especially when weighed against the benefit, would be small. Many of the policy changes usually cost nothing. "Many of the required investments are small," the report continues, "in relation to a country's gross domestic product—and in relation to military spending."

Casualties from wars for which the arms race is often responsible are increasingly civilians, a "growing" proportion being women and children. "Although there are no wide-scale statistics on women's involvement in disarmament movements," the report says, "it is clear that they are affected by decisions regarding military policies and expenditures." ■

People, not laws, will make the difference

By Rattana K. Hetzel

A lot of hopes are being placed in the Earth Summit. The organizers realize that the changes necessary in human behaviour and in international co-operation are fundamental and also extremely difficult to achieve. They are, however, banking on the fact that the dire state of the earth will serve as a "powerful incentive to mobilize on an unprecedented scale our capacities for political, economic and social innovation and leadership".

I have my doubts. We have relied on this reasoning before, and the action has never been commensurate with the problem, which is why the environmental situation has continued to get worse. If all we get from the Earth Summit is one more level of international bureaucracy and meetings far removed from the people, it will have failed.

It is time now, before Rio, to come up with innovative models of development that are in fact sustainable. For this evaluation we need to look beyond the usual analysis of the situation. Not because the current analysis is erroneous—it is accurate. But it is also incomplete.

The problem in linking environment and development is that policy makers have left people out of the equation. Sustainable development, by its very nature, is a participatory, grass-roots process which necessitates the empowerment and liberation of people. If this is not integrated into the process, the Earth Summit could come and go and we may find that we have missed the boat—and this time it just might be too late.

Two decades ago, the industrialized countries put "environment and development" on the international

agenda in part to appease the developing countries. Actually, many of the developing countries considered environment as another ploy to keep them from getting their share of growth and resources.

Today, both industrialized and developing countries realize that environmental considerations are an integral part of achieving their long-term social, economic and political goals.

We are moving from the quick-fix approach to the realization that environmental concerns must be incorporated into and profoundly alter the

hensive analysis and definition of the problems of our physical environment. We have proposed solutions including pollution control and sustainable development; a holistic world-view and altering our consumer-driven lifestyles; more comprehensive social, economic and political goals; integrating rather than just adding environmental concerns into our agendas.

As such, there has been relative clarity about what needs to be done. Yet 20 years after the first major conference on the environment in Stockholm, we are not closer to solving our

The problem in linking environment and development is that policy makers have left people out of the equation.

economic system of the modern industrial development model. The emerging model must be based on a new value system and more comprehensive social, economic and political goals that support holistic and sustainable development.

It has become obvious that we must choose a different set of attitudes and belief system about the earth and humankind's interaction and relationship to the planet. And this involves altering our exploitative, no-limits and unlimited material growth basis of modern industrialized society. It involves choosing to respect spaceship earth by changing our values and lifestyles, limiting our consumption of non-renewable resources and other destructive practices.

We have come up with a compre-

critical problems. Are we, perhaps, asking the wrong questions?

If we look closer at the cause of our predicament, we see that people are the cause. People pollute. People destroy the environment. Why? and how can this change?

If people are not supporting the earth, they are not supporting themselves either. People are hurt, afraid, angry, depressed and addicted. They do not care for themselves, let alone the planet. The majority of the people on the planet, in both developed and developing countries, live in inner turmoil and outer struggle. They are fighting for their life whether it be in terms of AIDS, cancer, malnutrition, unemployment, homelessness, stress or self-worth.

Although we have given lip-

service to changing values and lifestyles, we are still stuck in the same agenda, repeating the same tactics and methods—legislation, regulation, reorganization and informing people about what is the matter and how bad it is.

Our strategies do not attempt to help people directly or facilitate their healing so that they can care. We all feel powerless in the face of the massive problems. When we get really serious about altering our values, goals, lifestyles and attitudes, they will form the foundation for a change of world-views that could be the basis for a solution.

People are the ones who are going to implement sustainable environmental policies. Not a building, committee or functionary in Geneva, Washington or Nairobi. How do we get people to act? Not through fear, threats, humiliation or guilt. The global picture is too overwhelming. Sustainable development requires trust that when people are given the opportunity and supportive context, they have the power and ingenuity to come up with creative, viable solutions that support the development of each individual and the larger community. However, this will not happen if people are not in control of their own lives and are constantly struggling against a power structure that profits from inequitable power and resource distribution.

If we really want sustainable development, then let us hear our leaders and the voice of the people through the NGOs at Rio, support each other in finding more equitable distribution of opportunities, power and resources at the national, local and international levels. Let us give it a try; nothing else has worked. Give people back their power, their land and their dignity and see what they come up with in terms of sustainable development models which enable us to take responsibility for our relationship with mother earth. ■

Rattana K. Hetzel received her Ph.D. in International Environmental Co-operation from the University of Geneva. She worked for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and currently works as consultant, author and meditation teacher in San Diego, California.

The lost lessons of Bangladesh

Continued from page 1

tornados swept into the south, around Chittagong, on the Bay of Bengal. Then, as now and for the foreseeable

future, people lived on the vulnerable low-lying islands of rich silt (*chars*) which were covered with rice crops



ripe for harvest. They were devastated.

When it became clear that there had been a major disaster and that the government was not coping, we and our Western and Bangladeshi friends began collecting money from the foreign community. Several of us purchased kerosene, *lungis* (sarongs), *saris*, candles, rice, blankets, cooking oil, *dal* and other things we knew the country people needed.

On a rented boat in Chittagong, we went out with some young student volunteers into the Bay of Bengal, landing on one island area where the dead outnumbered the living. Stepping over corpses on a level shoreline barely two feet above the now-placid bay, we began to learn about relief.

What we learned was neither simple nor all that complex. What was needed was to tap into the remnants of traditional organization and authority of the affected people as quickly as possible.

Amidst the stench of death and previously unimaginable sorrow and despair, we learned that people can help themselves, can have dignity in disaster, and can, even, begin in devastation to plan for the future. We trusted those who had been stricken to have ideas about ways to help themselves. They did, often better than

our own. They told us what to do.

We gave them supplies, some organization, a lot of meat-fed Western energy, and love and confidence. We organized and supplied, through our wives who remained in Dhaka, the German helicopter group which began making drops of supplies, with a few Pakistani bombers, over drop-zones we laid out in the water-logged fields.

Despite the desperation of the survivors, the unbelievable chaos and

The lessons learned in 1970 should not have to be relearned with each emergency.

waste that characterized the relief operation last May was almost entirely avoided—at least on the scale of our limited operation—with minimal planning. The air-dropped supplies were recovered by our arm-banded volunteers and collected at depots near our tents for the next day's compound distributions.

We organized volunteers from those who, often, had lost everything except their humanity. They set up

Earth Summit

Broadening the NGO role

By Rashmi Mayur

Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) are under way everywhere—the United Nations has made it top priority and more than 70 countries are working on their country reports. Perhaps most significantly, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are participating actively in the official process, whose goal is nothing less than reaching a consensus among governments on long-term policies that will protect the global environment and promote sustainable development.

From my travels I have seen the intense enthusiasm and work that is being undertaken by all sorts of NGOs, large and small. I have met with indigenous groups, slum-dwellers, lawyers, scientists, all of whom are rallying to the opportunity, which, as UNCED secretary-general Maurice Strong puts it, is the "last hope for mankind".

But, as everyone knows, there are two realities in the present world—governments and citizens. In the vast arena of the United Nations, when the governments of various shapes, sizes, colours, ideologies and developments meet, there are bound to be compromises. Almost always, however, these compromises mean the preservation of the old world order of pollution, deprivation and inequity for the majority and, for the elites of the North and South, the obscene preservation of wealth, failed technologies, institutions and management systems that has brought us to the present crisis.

Governments seldom change the world. It is people who must build the new world order. Thus, to the extent that they directly represent the needs and aspirations of people, the citizens' groups, social movements, the NGOs and the independent sectors must take the leading role in this process.

But I think we have to be very aware of the differences—in goals, practice and capacities—of the different NGOs which are relevant to the UNCED process.

There are important differences between non-governmental efforts to contribute to the goals of the Earth Summit. The International Facilitating



Committee (IFC), comprising primarily the mainstream NGOs formally assigned as participants in UNCED, has been meeting regularly and contributes directly to the PrepCom process.

What has struck everyone involved is the fact that the meetings held to set the substantive input into UNCED have been attended mostly by Northern NGOs. There is concern that the development NGOs are not getting as much input into the process as is needed. The main reason, of course, is that the Southern NGOs cannot afford to send delegations to all these meetings, even to the PrepComs. But I sensed little discomfort among some mainstream NGOs that the more development-oriented and grassroots NGOs were not around to make demands and confuse the issues.

In May, I attended the NGO International Preparatory Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, which was organized by the new Brazilian Forum, which represents about 600 Brazilian NGOs. Key NGOs such as Sierra Club, IFC, Greenpeace, and World Wildlife Fund from Europe and North America were there. Despite the developing country venue, I was the only person from

Asia. There was no one present from Africa.

The main objective of the meeting was to prepare for a "parallel event" in Rio during UNCED, an event that NGOs agreed to define and organize in such a way as to ensure the meaningful participation of all sectors of civil soci-

We have to be very aware of the differences—in goals, practice and capacities—of the different NGOs which are relevant to the UNCED process.

ety and to provide an open and participative forum in which differing experiences, positions, demands and remedies can be shared and enriched. The vision and the commitment of the group were impressive, but serious differences were apparent.

The most important questions raised at this meeting were: Who will

oversee the parallel event? Can such an event be planned in one year? Where should the event be held? Where will the financing come from? And, source of great discomfort, "Are the Brazilians competent to do it?"

During extensive discussions, conflicts arose as to whether the IFC, the UNCED-recognized committee representing different NGO and citizens' groupings, should be in overall charge of such an event. Many NGOs, Northern ones among them, opposed this. Others were concerned about how decisions could and should be made about how to accommodate the many groups and individuals that are expected to come to Rio in 1992 for many different purposes. It was finally decided to begin with planning a substantive strategy meeting for perhaps 3,000 participants that could be accommodated in the existing space in Rio de Janeiro. For this purpose an International Support Network was formed whose membership is open. The Brazilian NGO Forum and IFC agreed to work together to organize the larger citizen event within which this one meeting would fit.

The Brazilian NGO Forum, acutely aware of the terrible toll that social inequity, militarism, ecological plunder and debt has taken on their own society, seeks to bring these issues to the world summit. I feel that they and many other groups have important insights and experience and, however modest, they will be able to organize a significant "independent event" which will propose a complementary, comprehensive and holistic plan that will expand the scope of the Earth Summit. They should be supported, financially and politically, by all of us. ■

Rashmi Mayur is president of Global Futures Network, Bombay, India.

compounds defined only by string and stakes, where survivors from each *bari-unit* (like a miniature village) could be assembled in orderly lines, respecting the new, though often familiar, authority. With volunteers keeping close watch, representatives of each surviving household collected equally-portioned shares of our goods in turn.

At night, in our tents, we met regularly with *bari-unit* elders, who reviewed the censuses of households conducted with our collaboration during the day.

The problems seemed endless. How to treat "cyclone syndrome"—the raw abrasions on inner legs and arms resulting from hanging on to palm trees 20 feet above the ground when the waves had crested in their growling horror in the middle of the night. How to get relief to "modest" Muslim women too transfixed by custom to drag their injured bodies and children away from ruined homes into a male-dominated public

that was "not suitable" for them.

My sorrow now, as I read of the repeated stupidities of northern Iraq/southern Turkey and Bangladesh, is how little—how painfully, insignificantly little—we have learned about disaster.

We do not plan for its happening, for its relief, for its avoidance. Men and

cused on preventative assistance to the government to stockpile essentials, inland away from the Bay of Bengal. Bangladeshis do not need sweaters from German schoolchildren or canned beets from France. They will need minimal provisions such as uncontaminated water, basic medicines (especially oral rehydration supplies), rice,

include a permanent disaster relief force consisting of a sufficient fleet of air transports to handle large-scale movements of stock-piled goods, and helicopters to assure flexible access of relief teams to hard-hit areas. Finally, provide training to a core international and local relief staff on ways to capitalize on the strengths, knowledge, and yes, basic human decency of disaster-stricken people, to devise the best ways to help them help themselves.

We have the wherewithal to prevent these disasters, to forecast them, to provide for their alleviation, to save hundreds of thousands of lives. We also know that treating people like people makes them act like people even when they seem, momentarily, to have forgotten how. ■

We trusted those who had been stricken to have ideas about ways to help themselves. They did, often better than our own.

women of good will report it, rail at it, respond to it from their savings and their hearts, but finally take little long-term action.

Realistically what is possible in the case of Bangladesh, at a minimum, is this: In areas of continual or periodic risk, international help should be fo-

kerosene, candles and clothing (*saris* and *lungis*). They also need an effective early warning system and, to the extent possible in areas of highest continued risk, some centrally located shelters, perhaps doubling as schools or health facilities at other times.

At the international level, needs

C. Stephen Baldwin is deputy chief of the Population Branch of the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. In 1970, when Dhaka was the provincial capital of East Pakistan, he was assistant representative in Pakistan for the Ford Foundation.

NGOs pull together logistics for Rio

Although non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been granted an unprecedented role in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) process, they are not facing unknown territory as they organize their own participation in the Earth Summit. In fact, as the NGO structures have become quite complex, some background and an organizational map may be helpful at this stage.

leadership experience served the 1985 Women's Forum well under sometimes difficult circumstances in Nairobi (shortage of hotel rooms being only one).

For whatever reason, the Development and Environment Committees of CONGO did not offer to play a co-ordinating and facilitating role for the NGO community at the UNCED in 1992. The result has been that two ad hoc organizational structures that

this group, especially the steering committee for the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI)/Paris NGO Conference in December, the Third World Network and CONGO. This international support group is strongly encouraged to work in close co-operation with the IFC and the Brazilian NGO Forum to ensure that the event is fully integrated into the Global Citizens Forum.

The Brazilian NGO Forum and the newly-formed International Support Network held their first planning meeting in Rio on 28-29 June. The NGO/Social Movements meeting will likely have 2,000 participants and will be by invitation only.

Other meetings being planned at the time of the Earth Summit are: the Independent Sectors Summit by the IFC, and separate but public meetings planned by the Brazilian women's and scientific NGOs for their respective colleagues from around the world.

This long process of clarifying who is doing what and who is responsible for which activity now makes it a bit easier for the Brazilian government to respond to requests for meeting space, hotel rooms, etc. (At this time, only 6,000 hotel rooms have been blocked out for the estimated 25,000 NGO representatives who are coming to Rio.)

After NGOs rejected a race-track near the UNCED conference site as an unsuitable option, the current plan is to hold all the various NGO activities in the nearby downtown neighbourhood of Flamengo which contains a number of medium-size hotels adjacent to each other. A nearby park also provides some facilities for outdoor meetings. Not the best solution but it is the best available. It will make NGO activities even more decentralized (there are not many meeting halls for 3,000 or more people).

An office for the Global Citizens Forum will open soon, but until that address is determined, write either one of the two co-ordinating organizations of the Forum for more information:

Executive Secretariat, Brazilian NGO Forum, c/o CEDI, Avenida Higienópolis 983, 01238 São Paulo SP, Brazil.
Fax: (+55) 11-825-7861

or

Bea Olivastri, International Facilitating Committee, Palais Wilson, 52 Rue des Paquis, CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.
Tel: 41-22-732-7117
Fax: 41-22-738-5046

M.M.

Bank responds to dam protest

Washington—Twelve environmental groups from the United States, Canada, Japan, Western Europe and Australia are urging that the unprecedented review of a major World Bank project in India be "comprehensive" in scope.

The groups praised the review itself as "an important and bold step" by the Bank in a letter to Bradford Morse, the former head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who was named by World Bank president Barber Conable in June to head an independent review team for the huge dam and irrigation Sardar Sarovar Project.

But they assailed the project itself as a symbol of destructive

development. "We fail to understand why the Bank continues to fund a project where nearly all components have been severely undermined by systematic negligence, violations of World Bank loan agreements and policies, violations of Indian law, lack of consultation with affected communities and human rights abuses," the letter said.

The Bank has lent \$450 million since 1985 to what is supposed to be the largest single development project in India since independence.

The project contemplates the construction of some 30 large dams, hundreds of smaller dams, and 400 irrigation works in the Narmada valley designed to bring water and power to people in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

But the project, which will create the world's largest artificial lake, will also result in the displacement of at least 100,000 mostly tribal people who live in the valley, and submerge some 130,000 hectares of forest, according to environmentalists and experts.

In the face of a rising tide of controversy and protest among the tribal people, as well as Indian and Northern environmental groups, the Bank earlier this year agreed to appoint an independent commission to look into the project and its effects.

Those who signed the letter, which was endorsed by 59 non-governmental organizations from 14 countries, included senior officials of the Washington-based Environmental Defense Fund, Australia's Rainforest Information Center, Canada's Probe International, Friends of the Earth in Japan, and Action for World Solidarity of Germany.

Also signing were officials of the Environment Federation, the Fourth World Association, Friends of the Earth of Sweden, the Coalition for Environment and Development and the Parliamentary group of the Green Union in Finland.

IPS

Call for new African emergency operation

John Hammock of Oxfam America and Frank Judd of Oxfam UK have urged the secretary-general to re-establish the United Nations' Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA) to improve co-ordination of relief efforts in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia and Sudan.

As part of their campaign to refocus international concern on



Traditionally, parallel "forums" at major United Nations conferences have been organized by the appropriate working committee of CONGO (NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. CONGO comprises mainline international NGOs that have been around since 1945, and generally have national members in the North and South. Its standing committees deal with issues such as human rights, women, population, sustainable development, and science and technology).

For example, the Committee on Women of CONGO has members who, over time, participated in the preparation of three large NGO forums: Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, and the largest and perhaps the most complex organizational challenge, the 25,000-strong Women's Forum in Nairobi in 1985. Over 400 workshops were organized under the Women's Forum umbrella, to say nothing of the ongoing formal programme of the Forum itself.

The women who organized the Forum had a great depth of experience in working with NGO colleagues, in knowing how to organize in a co-operative, collaborative, fashion across national boundaries, and in working with national governments and with the United Nations system. The decades of collective women's

did not exist before 1990—the Brazilian NGO Forum (São Paulo), a coalition of over 400 national and grassroots organizations from the environment, development, women's and social justice fields in Brazil, and the International Facilitating Committee (IFC), Geneva, representing various sectors of international NGOs and national coalitions of NGOs, will be co-ordinating NGO activities in 1992 with co-operating NGO networks under what is now being called the Global Citizens Forum.

Much of the current information about the Earth Summit plans by the NGO community is the result of a planning meeting for parallel NGO events called by the Brazilian NGO Forum in Rio on 28-31 May 1991 (For a related story see "As I see it", page 19).

The Brazilian NGO Forum and the IFC will play a "co-ordinating and facilitating" role under the umbrella of the Global Citizens Forum. Another resolution of the Rio planning meeting was that preparations should begin for an NGO/Social Movements meeting during or immediately before the Earth Summit. For this purpose, a secretariat should be established in Rio de Janeiro by the National Co-ordinating Committee of the Brazilian NGO Forum assisted by an international support group. International and national networks are invited to join

ADVERTISEMENT

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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- (1) Direct, review, and formulate programmes of work in the area of desertification and co-ordinate their implementation.
- (2) Co-ordinate the work of the Centre with that of other national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and other units of UNEP to avoid duplication of work in the implementation of the Plan of Action.
- (3) Negotiate with relevant bodies on behalf of UNEP for project formulation, fund raising and for the provision of consultants.
- (4) Build up a data base on desertification assessment and control and disseminate pertinent information to Governments.
- (5) Organize meetings, prepare policy papers, statements and reports on desertification control and represent UNEP in related areas of activity.
- (6) Manage human and financial resources of the Centre.

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Highest University degree in Natural Sciences (e.g., Geography, Botany, Soils, Hydrology, Climatology, etc.), Agronomy or Economics. Sound knowledge of issues relating to arid lands problems and development. 15 years practical working experience in related field, following graduation, 3 years of which with international organs. Proven skills in administration, familiarity with UN and with environmental problems. Fluency in English essential and knowledge of French or Spanish desirable.

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This position was initially advertised under Vacancy No. NA-90-32 and candidates who had applied for this post need not reapply.

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NGO Forum

Africa, the directors of Oxfam America and Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland met with the United Nations secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 19 June to urge increased United Nations response to the famine threatening nearly 30 million people around the continent.

The secretary-general requested that consultations between the relevant United Nations offices, donor governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) begin in Geneva on 3 July to consider the options open to the system.

The OEOA was established by the secretary-general in January 1985 in response to the Sahelian famine that eventually claimed the lives of one million people. After considerable success in co-ordinating complex relief efforts in 13 countries, the office was disbanded in November 1986 with the understanding that it could be re-established if the need arose.

Oxfam and other NGOs, including InterAction, the United States umbrella group of 125 NGOs, Save the Children, World Vision and Care are concerned that, unless immediate action is taken by the United Nations and donor nations, the death toll of this famine could soon overshadow that of the Ethiopian famine of 1985-86. "Donor pledges of food aid have fallen far short of actual need," says Hammock, "and only a fraction of the pledged food has been delivered to affected regions."

For several months now, European NGOs, such as the recently organized umbrella group Eurostep based in Belgium and Novib in the Netherlands, have been pressuring the European Community to step up its food aid to Africa.

The differing humanitarian and operational agendas of the donors and NGOs responding to the famine, particularly in the Horn of Africa, have limited the effectiveness of their relief efforts. If re-established, Oxfam argues, the OEOA would help focus and co-ordinate pledges and relief operations, pulling together the resources of all involved governments and agencies. Although other United Nations officials assumed the responsibilities of the OEOA upon its dissolution, the lack of the OEOA structure has made it harder for them to pull donors together.

Development; Article 19, the International Centre on Censorship; and the World Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

As non-profit voluntary bodies, NGOs include professional, business and co-operative organizations, trade unions, religious, peace, disarmament, youth and women's groups, human rights, development, and environmental bodies, research institutes and associations of parliamentarians.

Currently, NGOs are seen as the strongest single link between the world's political decision-makers and grassroots groups.

Rafeeuddin Ahmed, United Nations under-secretary-general for international economic and social affairs, told the Committee on NGOs recently that in view of their expertise in specific areas and their contacts in the field, NGOs help in important ways to formulate and implement United Nations plans and programmes.

Ahmed said that not only do the NGOs publicize the work of the United Nations, they have, on many occasions, played the role of an "early warning system" by bringing to the attention of the United Nations emerging issues and potential problems requiring action at the international level.

As an integral part of a global action network, NGOs have helped in convening world conferences and parallel NGO events on the environment, youth, women, population, shelter and food.

NGOs applying for consultative status are subject to careful scrutiny by the Committee on NGOs, an intergovernmental body. Once the status is granted, NGOs must fulfil a number of obligations, including the submission of quadrennial reports.

IPS



Women and UNCED

4-8 November
Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: Partners for Life, Miami, Florida.

The meeting is sponsored by the UNCED Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD) and organized by WorldWIDE Network, an international women's network. Invited participants will present over 200 success stories in which women have been key in implementing repeatable, affordable and sustainable development projects. The assembly will bring together three types of people: success story presenters, "mentors" (senior representatives of development organizations, academia, foundations and non-governmental organizations) and "new generation leaders" (18-25-year-olds with leadership potential).

For more information, contact Wafas Ofosu-Amaah, programme director, WorldWIDE Network, 1331 H Street, NW, Suite 903, Washington, DC 20005, United States. Tel: (202) 347-1514; Fax: (202) 347-1524.

8-12 November
World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, Miami, Florida.

Organized by the Women's International Policy Action Committee on Environment and Development (IPAC), an international group of 45 women activists, the congress will feature tribunals with a panel of distinguished women jurists who will hear dramatic testimony from women in every region of the world presenting evidence of their battle against ecological and economic devastation. The stories will serve as a basis for workshops and recommendations for action. The congress is open to all and organizers expect 1,000 women to attend, mostly from developing countries.

For more information, contact IPAC, 845 Third Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10022, United States. Tel: (212) 759-7982; Fax: (212) 759-8647.

20-24 November
Learning Together/Working Together: A South-North Dialogue, Washington, DC.

Organized by the Association for Women in Development (AWID), this meeting will bring together activists, policy-makers and academics interested in women in development to discuss issues of work, education, health, family, political participation, institutional development and environment. The forum's aim is to create effective strategies for change in areas of concern shared by women worldwide. The

INITIATIVES

A new newsletter is coming out of Washington that focuses on increasing contacts among northern NGOs and African NGOs. *Initiatives*, a 12 page publication of Datex Inc.'s PVO/NGO Initiatives Project and funded by the Africa Bureau of the United States Agency for International Development, aims to increase co-ordination and collaboration among United States PVOs (the North American term for NGOs, meaning "private voluntary organizations"), African NGOs, USAID, and other development agencies active throughout sub-Saharan Africa, by presenting a balanced forum of perspectives on substantive policy and programme issues affecting PVOs/NGOs.

The publication is aimed at

professionals who are working on Africa-focused programmes, especially those based in the field, who will benefit from participating in the international PVO/NGO dialogue on such common issues and concerns as partnership activities, popular participation and advocacy, information networking, donor requirements and others that arise.

Editor Carolyn Reynolds wishes to be placed on the mailing lists of appropriate organizations so that *Initiatives* can share information with other interested groups.

For subscription or other information, contact Carolyn Reynolds, editor, *Initiatives*, 1400 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005-2208, United States. Tel: 202/789-4300; Fax: 202/789-1630.

meeting will emphasize the flow of experience from South to North, from the developing to the industrialized world, and encourage the equal interchange of vision and knowledge between women working at the community level and their colleagues who work on policy formulation and scholarly research.

For more information, contact Conference Office, 261 College Court, KSU, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, United States. Tel: (913) 532-5575; Fax: (913) 532-5637.

Correction

The address for queries about the InterAction Forum "Building a Worldwide NGO Movement: People, Participation and Policy", 29 April-1 May (DF March-April, p.20), should have read: **Stephanie Gordon, InterAction, 1815 H Street, NW, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006; Tel: (202) 822-8429; Fax (202) 659-2661.** We regret any inconvenience.

Place an ad in Development Forum

We are now offering space—at reasonable rates—to advertisers interested in getting their message out to the nearly 125,000 people who read *Development Forum*. Space will be available, on a limited basis, to organizations and companies involved in the fields of social and economic development. The deadline for the next issue is 12 August.

Development Forum's readership covers the spectrum of key United Nations, government and NGO officials, development workers, journalists, students and academics. Some 40 per cent of our readers live in the developing countries, where *Development Forum* has been a primary source of information and education for nearly 25 years.

Use *Development Forum* to spread the word about your organization, its publications, conferences, job vacancies and products. Space is also available in the *Forum's* Spanish and French editions. For further information contact:

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P.O. Box 5850, GCPO,
New York, NY
10163-5850, USA
Tel: (212) 963-8524
Fax: (212) 963-1381

Children

Kids Contact.

Australian Freedom from Hunger Campaign, 155 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia. Free. English.

This is a new review by and for children from all countries of the world. The aim is to put children from different countries and cultural backgrounds in touch with each other through stories of everyday life.

The review is divided into three sections, each considering an environment from several viewpoints, followed by international news on specific facts related to that environment and practical initiatives in which children may participate as protagonists of their own problems. It includes letters, photographs, drawings and text on such questions as pollution, food, religious customs and practices, the problems of school enrolment, deforestation, and simple descriptions of a day in their lives.

Issue No.1 is devoted to environmental pollution in Australian cities, the different lifestyles on the African continent and Australian Aboriginal myths. The focus of issue No.2 is food and health.

Each issue is accompanied by a publication aimed at teachers and animators. It contains activities and discussions to deepen the understanding of the world of other children.

Children Hungering for Justice: Curriculum on Hunger and Children's Rights.

Church World Service, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515-0968, United States. \$3.00 each + 15 per cent for postage.

Faced with the magnitude of problems confronting adults and children alike in today's world, it is vital for teachers to promote action, not passivity. The teacher's role in encouraging "proactive responses", even among the youngest student, will help empower children to action. It is this action, not guilt, that the curriculum strives to foster.

Produced by the Church World Service's Office on Global Education, the curriculum strives to bring to life the issues of world hunger and children's rights to students from kindergarten to the 12th grade through the use of audio-visuals and other resources.

Further, in part four, "Students CAN Make a Difference", students are asked to find out about a food pantry, soup kitchen or child-care centre in their community and volunteer their services; arrange assemblies featuring films or speakers; organize food drives; or write to local newspapers urging them to cover issues of hunger and children's rights.

The curriculum—two hourly sessions—is designed for grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12.

For a listing of other educational resources, write to Office on Global Education, Church World Service, 2115 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218, United States.

Disasters

In a Disaster, the Wrong Kind of Help is not Helpful.

InterAction, 1815 H Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20006, United States.

This booklet, primarily designed to educate the Western public about appropriate response to foreign disasters, can also be used to educate ethnic



populations all over the world about the negative consequences of sending low-priority items such as food and clothing to the site of a foreign disaster. Frequently, as in the cases of the earthquake in Armenia and Hurricanes Gilbert and Hugo, ethnic groups in America collected and sent large amounts of goods which were not useful and, in many cases, contributed to logistical difficulties for relief workers.

The six-page booklet explains the essentials of appropriate response in simple English. The text is accompanied by illustrations and discussion questions.

Solar

Solar Photovoltaic Products: A Guide for Development Workers.

Anthony Derrick and others. Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd., 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, United Kingdom. £12.50.

A new revised edition which aims to assist in the selection of photovoltaic systems for water-pumping, water treatment, lighting, refrigeration, communications and various other small-scale applications. It contains updated information on prices and suppliers' addresses, as well as technical developments.

Peace

Building a More Democratic United Nations.

Frank Barnaby, Ed. Frank Cass, Gainsborough House, 11 Gainsborough Road, London E11 1RS, United Kingdom. £30.00/\$37.50 (hbk); £15.00/\$19.50 (pbk).

This is a report on the first International Conference on a More Democratic United Nations (CAMDUN-1), held in New York in October 1990, which initiated a broadly based movement for democratization, modernization and reform of the United Nations to meet the conditions for its second half-century.

The book breaks new ground for planning world peace by the year 2000 and is essential reading in the run-up to CAMDUN-2 (The United Nations and a New World Order for Peace and Justice), 17-19 September 1991, United Nations Vienna International Centre.

For further information on CAMDUN-2, write to International Secretariat, CAMDUN, c/o Medical Association for Prevention of War, 601 Holloway Road, London N19 4DJ, United Kingdom.

Energy

The Energy Dimension: A Practical Guide to Energy in Rural Development Programmes.

Christopher Hurst and Andrew Barnett. Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd., 103-105

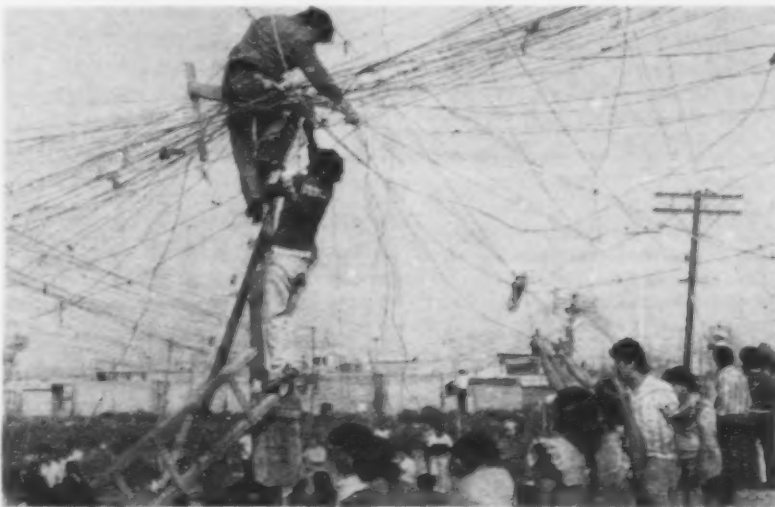
Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, United Kingdom. £9.95.

Administrators who select and implement rural development schemes but are not energy specialists will find in this guide sufficient information to enable them to pose the right questions to experts and project proposers. There are summaries of key issues and practical ways to implement energy planning; detailed discussion of energy options and the dynamics of supply and demand; and fact sheets and checklists for each project and technology type for quick reference.

Electricity for Rural People.

Gerald Foley. The Panos Institute, 9 White Lion St., London N1 9PD, United Kingdom.

Programmes to bring electric power to rural areas are popular with communities on the fringe of development. Many Third World governments and aid agencies claim it speeds up economic development. But is it affordable and who actually gains from it? Does it merely divert funds from more urgent needs?



Residents in Mexico City eagerly await electrical connection to their homes or businesses.

Foley looks at the pros and cons of the issue in an accessible and objective way, assesses the benefits but also explodes some of the common myths surrounding the subject. He concludes that a reliable supply of electricity is vital to the long-term development of rural areas but adds that electricity is not a cure-all for Third World development.

Appropriate tech

AT-Source.

P.O. Box 41, 6700 AA Wageningen, the Netherlands. Available in English and French.

This quarterly magazine aims to create a more effective communication concerning small-scale technology transfer and development in the fields of agriculture, energy, engineering, services and health. Information is also given on the social and economic impacts of technology introduction.

Deforestation

Trees of Life: Saving Tropical Forests and Their Biological Wealth.

Kenton Miller and Laura Tangley. World Resources Institute, 1709 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20006, United States.

The second in the Institute's "Guides to the Environment Series", this book offers general readers a lively, comprehensive guide to the causes, consequences and possible solutions to the problems of deforestation. It sur-

veys the current and historical assaults on the world's forests and offers hard-hitting recommendations for revamping government policies in developing and industrialized nations to halt deforestation. It also shows what individuals can do to help.

Seminars

6-9 December 1991 Monitoring Geosystems: Perspectives for the Twenty-first Century, Delhi, India.

The theme of this seminar is "Monitoring and forecasting environmental transformation, human responses and sustainable development; special discussion session on global change and South Asia".

Topics for discussion include mountain geosystems and sustainability; rapid geomorphological hazards and human responses to natural hazards and environmental change; regional problems inducing interregional effects like highland-lowland interactive systems; application of remote sensing for monitoring and modelling ecosystems and biosphere reserves; and

on the particular problems of each participant, bringing in specialists in the fields of agriculture, education, health and management.

Emphasis is on discussion and practical work, with a minimum of formal lectures.

Students are not required to fulfil any specific academic qualifications other than the ability to benefit from and contribute to a course conducted in English.

For all inquiries, write to Richard Hartnup, Rural Development Course, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 9 Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales SY23 2AZ, United Kingdom.

Armament

World Military and Social Expenditures 1991.

Ruth Leger Sivard.

Despite the end of the Cold War, global military expenditures in 1990 still exceeded \$900 billion and in real terms were more than 60 per cent above average annual outlays in the 1970s, says Sivard, who is director of World Priorities, a non-profit research group in Washington, DC.

The fourteenth annual report also found that the proportion of civilian deaths in wars across the world had jumped to 74 per cent in the 1980s, and to as much as 90 per cent in 1990. Sivard attributes this leap to increasingly lethal weaponry. "Today's so-called conventional weapons now approach small nuclear weapons in their destructive power," she says.

The report also says that over the decade ending in 1988, developing countries as a group spent 23 per cent more of their resources to procure foreign weapons than they received in economic development aid. The Middle East was by far the largest purchaser of foreign arms.

World Military and Social Expenditures 1991 can be obtained from World Priorities, Box 25140, Washington, DC 20007, United States. \$6.50 (+ \$1.50 for first class delivery).

Women

Women and the World Economic Crisis.

Jeanne Vickers, Ed. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, United Kingdom. £29.95/\$49.95 (hbk), £9.95/\$15.95 (pbk).

This book launches the seven-volume Women and World Development series, produced by Zed Books and the United Nations/NGO Group on Women and Development.

Beautifully illustrated, it explores the debt crisis from a very human point of view, explaining the effects of economic adjustment measures upon the poor in both the developing and the industrialized countries. In addition to a description of the international, governmental and NGO policies and programmes designed to mitigate these effects, it also offers detailed examples from Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, Philippines and Zambia of how women themselves are confronting these problems.

The book contains a wealth of valuable information for interested groups and individuals. It provides a comprehensive definition of key terms used in development and economic debates, and a useful list of organizations throughout the world which are working in this field. Its guide to education and action will be invaluable for use in schools, colleges and women's groups.

geosphere-biosphere observatories.

There will be a field excursion to the Indian Himalayas (approximate cost \$300) from 10-13 December 1991.

Registration fees are: India: Indian Rs. 400; South Asia: Indian Rs. 1,000; Other countries: \$100.

For more details, write to R.B. Singh, Dept. of Geography, University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007, India.

14-18 October 1991 Associative Movements in Community Development, Marcinelle, Belgium.

This seminar is aimed at gathering representatives of diverse associative movements (women's, youth, professional associations, co-operatives, friendly societies, associations in the fields of culture, education, health, etc.) and community development leaders.

The programme will be divided among lectures, group works and visits.

For further information, write to International Association for Community Development, 179, rue du Débarcadere, 6001 Marcinelle, Belgium. Tel: (0)71 36 62 73; Fax: (0)71 47 11 04.

Courses

September-October 1991 Rural Development Course, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales.

Since 1986, this eight-week course has given guidance to men and women involved in the day-to-day running of rural development programmes in the developing world. It concentrates

Resources



Environment

EARTHworks.

Council for Environmental Education, Faculty of Education and Community Studies, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ, United Kingdom. £7.95 + £2.00 postage and packing.

EARTHworks—Environmental Awareness Resource and Training Handbook—is a new and comprehensive resource which offers a total approach to environmental youth work, covering policy development, training and ideas for action.

The **EARTHworks** pack has three parts: **Developing policy and practice in environmental youth work** sets out a strategy for the development of an environmental approach to youth work within a youth organization or local authority.

Taking an environmental approach is a training resource which shows how youth workers can bring an environmental dimension to their work with young people.

The **Action pack** is full of practical environmental activities.

EARTHworks also includes a do-it-yourself environmental audit, quiz cards, a double-sided interactive poster and stickers.

Global Warming and Energy Choices.

CONCERN, Inc., 1794 Columbia Road, NW, Washington, DC 20009, United States. \$4.00 + \$1.50 for postage and handling; bulk rates available for non-profit organizations.

This is the latest community action guide from CONCERN, a United States-based environmental educational organization. It provides a comprehensive discussion of global warming and includes specific guidelines for individual and community action, extensive resources for additional information and pertinent legislation.

Fisheries

Climate Variability, Climate Change and Fisheries.

Michael H. Glantz and Lucy E. Feingold, Eds. *Environmental and Societal Impacts Group, National Center for Atmospheric Research, PO Box 3000, Boulder, Colorado 80307-3000, United States.*

Because of concern about what might be the local and regional effects of and responses to a global climate change, there is a need at the outset to identify how well societies have in the past dealt with local climate-related environmental changes, regardless of cause. Such an identification will provide researchers as well as policy-makers with societal baseline data.

To accomplish this, the

"forecasting by analogy" approach was used, not to forecast future states of the atmosphere or the ocean, but to forecast how well prepared societies are to cope with changes in abundance or availability of living marine resources. Subtle changes in key environmental variables such as temperature, salinity, wind speed and direction, ocean currents, as well as predators, can sharply alter the abundance, distribution and availability of fish populations.

This climate and fisheries study is based on an assessment of 15 case studies—Alaska king crab, California sardine, Pacific Northwest salmon, Atlantic menhaden, Maine lobster, Gulf of Mexico shrimp, Great Lakes sea lamprey, Mexican oyster, North Sea herring, Atlantic-Scandinavian herring, Anglo-Icelandic cod wars, Peruvian-Chilean fisheries, Polish distant water fisheries, Far Eastern sardine and Indian Ocean tuna.

Catalogues

The spring 1991 catalogue from **World Eagle, Inc.** lists three major types of teaching materials and reference tools for libraries:

- Current, comparative data, graphs (see example below) and maps on a variety of topics reflecting social, political and economic aspects of the world (including a monthly resource for social studies and other branches of the social sciences; six world regional atlases of reproducible pages; graphic blackline masters);
- Maps (traditional and global perspectives), posters and books;
- Curriculum materials on Japan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mexico and Guatemala.

For more information write to Sarah Woodruff, World Eagle, Inc., 64 Washburn Ave., Wellesley, MA 02181-9855, United States.

ICEG Publications Catalog, 1990-1991.

International Center for Economic Growth, 243 Kearny St., San Francisco, CA 94108, United States. Tel. (415) 981-5353; Fax (415) 986-4878.

ICEG was founded in 1985 to encourage dialogue between scholars and policy makers on issues related to economic policy, economic growth and human development. Its research and publications programme is organized around five series: Sector Studies, Country Studies, Studies in Human Development and Social Welfare, Occasional Papers, and Reprints.

Titles include *International Money and Debt: Challenges for the World Economy*; *Privatization of Public Enterprises in Latin America*; *Markets in Developing Countries: Parallel, Fragmented and Black*; and *How to End Up an Utter Failure as Minister of the Economy*.

Arts and crafts

The International Directory of Resources for Artisans.

The Crafts Center, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 925, Washington, DC 20036, United States.

The 1990 edition is designed to put artisans and crafts groups in contact with individuals, organizations, publications and markets. Many of these resources provide technical assistance and training in organizational development, management, production, marketing and distribution. Also listed are sources of credit, equipment and materials.

The *Directory* contains useful indices of United States craft markets which group them according to the geographic area in the developing world they represent and according to the types of crafts they carry (baskets, jewelry, wearable art).

Health equipment

Making Health-Care Ideas for Local Design and Production.

Adam Platt and Nicola Carter. *Intermediate Technology Development Group of North America, Inc., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States. \$11.50 (pbk).*

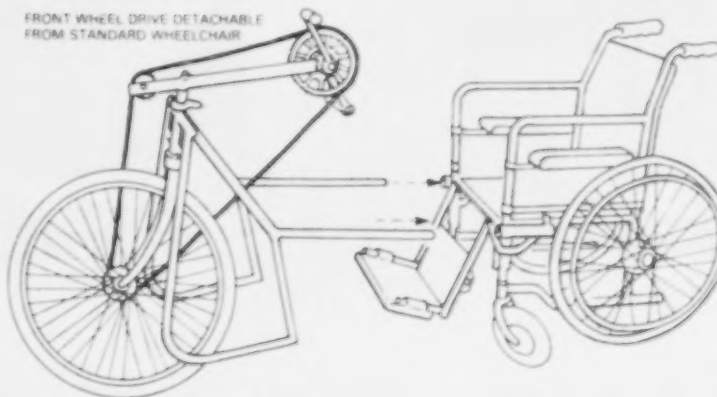
Locally produced health-care equipment can be designed to suit the community's needs and resources, and is both cheaper

and more easily maintained than imported items. There is a large potential market among health and rehabilitation centres in developing countries for appropriate, affordable equipment.

The book contains illustrated, step-by-step instructions for making items such as folding beds, ward screens, wheelchairs and mobility aids, and gives guidelines for adapting these designs to particular circumstances.

There is also information about basic construction and marketing methods and a list of resources from which further information may be obtained. With this book as a starting point, medical teams, artisans and entrepreneurs can share knowledge and ideas, and improve the local availability of appropriate equipment for health care.

FRONT WHEEL DRIVE DETACHABLE FROM STANDARD WHEELCHAIR



Education

The National Clearinghouse on Development Education (NCoDE) has launched

DevEdNet, an electronic network featuring a database of annotated material resources. It is geared towards all educators concerned with international development issues and other global concerns.

DevEdNet's on-line database is aimed to support busy educators in their work by offering direct access to the wealth of resources available on issues such as debt, sustainable development, women, poverty and interdependence. Materials are both print and non-print and include instructional packages, background information, issues analyses, and theory and practice references.

DevEdNet also features a calendar of forthcoming events in development education, and teleconferencing will be added soon.

For a one-time membership fee (\$50 for institutions; \$30 for individuals; discounts available for groups), the subscriber will get a user's manual, a private DevEd-

Net account and a password, as well as one free hour of connect time during the first month. A \$10 monthly fee includes one free hour of connect time each month. Additional connect time is charged at \$10 an hour.

To join DevEdNet, contact NCoDE, American Forum, 45 John Street, Suite 1200, New York, NY 10038, United States. Tel. (212) 732-8606; Fax (212) 791-4132.

Study Abroad.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France. French francs 92. English, French and Spanish.

Containing information on scholarships and courses offered to foreigners in 124 countries in all academic and professional fields, the twenty-seventh edition

of *Study Abroad* has 2,846 entries concerning post-secondary education and training. It gives information on financial assistance, university level course, entry-level upgrading and short-term courses, extra-mural and other continuing education programmes, and employment possibilities. The information is valid for three academic years up to 1994. In some cases information on facilities for the handicapped is provided.

The first part lists international scholarships and courses offered by United Nations agencies, international and inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. The second part catalogues scholarships and courses offered by individual countries.

To order by mail: Sales Division, UNESCO PRESS, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

Development Education Annual 1990/91.

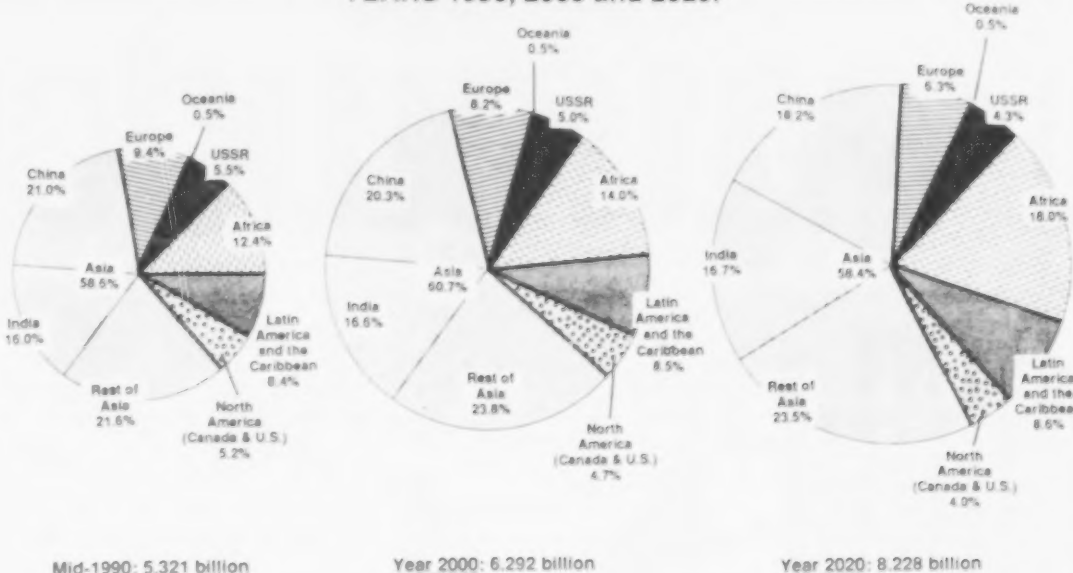
Published by the National Clearinghouse on Development Education (NCoDE), the 48-page journal was designed to meet the increasing need for sharing information and ideas on the latest innovative practices among educators engaged in teaching about international interdependence and critical development issues. Through articles and interviews, it provides a forum for discussion and experience-sharing relevant to all educators.

The theme of this second *Annual* is "Perspectives from the South in Development Education", dealing with the need to develop new partnerships between people and countries from the Northern and Southern hemispheres for a just and ecologically sustainable world development.

Available from the American Forum for Global Education, 45 John Street, Suite 1200, New York, NY 10038, United States. \$6.00 + \$3.00 shipping and handling. Tel. (212) 732-8606.

The dates for the International Training Course in Desert Farming Systems (DF, May-June) have been changed to **15 October-15 November 1991**.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD POPULATION BY REGION; YEARS 1990, 2000 and 2020.



Mid-1990: 5.321 billion

Year 2000: 6.292 billion

Year 2020: 8.228 billion

Percentages for two of the charts (2000 and 2020) do not add to 100 because of internal rounding.

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The forces and pressures of economic life can pull nations together or they can drive them apart. One of the great challenges of the new era is to realize the possibilities of genuine co-operation to the maximum extent that the world's resources and capacities will permit. Lasting peace will necessarily require an improvement in the human condition. This, in turn, can only be achieved through productive patterns of interaction among all members of the international community. For this a renewed commitment and more focused efforts are required to stimulate and achieve economic development and social progress, particularly in the developing countries.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
secretary-general
United Nations

development forum

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 UNRWA
 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees;
 UNU
 United Nations University;
 UNCHS
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 UNHCR
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
 WFC
 World Food Council;
 ICJ
 International Court of Justice;
 INSTRAW
 International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;
 ITC
 International Trade Centre;
 WFP
 World Food Programme;
 ILO
 International Labour Organisation;
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 Food and Agriculture Organization;
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 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
 ICAO
 International Civil Aviation Organization;
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 Universal Postal Union;
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 WIPO
 World Intellectual Property Organization;
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 International Fund for Agricultural Development;
 UNIDO
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
 IAEA
 International Atomic Energy Agency;
 GATT
 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

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